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Look at Lovell
FOR PLANT HIRE

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GADDAFI 'IN PLOT TO KILL THATCHER'

Egypt gives details of murder list

By SIMON INGRAM in Cairo

FOUR men, including two Londoners, detained in Cairo after the failure of an assassination plot, have implicated Col Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, in a plan to kill Mrs Thatcher, President Mubarak of Egypt said last night.

He said confessions by the four men had also linked Col Gaddafi with plots to murder President Mitterrand of France, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

President Mubarak said the detained men had told investigators that Libya had also "been participating in killing Indira Gandhi."

Mrs Gandhi was killed by two of her bodyguards on Oct. 31, apparently in revenge for actions against Sikh separatists, including the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

A report by the Egyptian news agency, MENA, quoted officials as saying Mrs Gandhi was on the list of intended victims but did not state whether her murder was, in the event, connected with a Libyan plot.

President Mubarak told reporters that Col Gaddafi was "an international terrorist" adding: "He is financing some kind of guerrilla war."

The two Londoners, Anthony William Gill, 43, and Geoffrey William Shiner, 47, were named together with two Maltese, Romeo Nicholas Chakambari, 42, and Edgar Bonnici Cuchia, 40, at a dramatic press conference on Saturday night by the Egyptian Interior Minister, Mr Ahmed Rosbdi.

'Meetings with Carlos the Jackal'

They were detained after the failure of an attempt to murder Mr Abdel Hamed Bakoush, former Prime Minister of Libya, in an interview with the Egyptian newspaper Mavo, Mr Rosbdi said. Gill had confessed to meetings in Tripoli with Carlos the Jackal, the international terrorist whose real name is Dich Ramirez Sanchez.

Mavo says in its edition appearing today that Mr Rosbdi referred to the visit to Libya by an official of the National Union of Mineworkers. He is also quoted as saying that Gill believed there was a plan to overthrow the Government of Pakistan.

Mr Rosbdi described Gill as the proprietor of a textile firm and a motor parts company. He identified Shiner as an engineer.



The two Britons, Anthony Gill and (below) Geoffrey Shiner, named in the plot to kill Mr Abdel Bakoush.

Mr Abdel Hamed Bakoush, former Libyan Prime Minister, attending the Press conference in Cairo to prove that he had not been assassinated and (below) the fake picture of him which fooled the Libyan authorities.



Mr Abdel Hamed Bakoush, former Libyan Prime Minister, attending the Press conference in Cairo to prove that he had not been assassinated and (below) the fake picture of him which fooled the Libyan authorities.

QUICK GAIN SEEN FOR TELECOM

By ROLAND GRIFFEN Business Correspondent

A HEAVY over-subscription for British Telecom shares followed by an early "profit" on dealings was being forecast yesterday as the "sale of the century" neared its final stages.

Between one and two million members of the public are expected to apply for shares at 130p each after the prospectus for the issue is published tomorrow.

The sale of just over three billion shares, 25.2 per cent of the company, will raise £3.91 billion. After allowing for about £200 million in commission to stockbrokers and banks, the cost of underwriting and the bill for telephone discounts for small shareholders the Government's take will be about £3.7 billion.

Takeover studies

Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is already assured of his money following the successful underwriting by the City of the 86 per cent of the shares on offer in Britain.

The balance is being sold abroad in the United States, Canada and Japan to meet heavy international demand.

Telecom executives denied yesterday they were poised to start on the takeover trail immediately after privatisation by seeking a 20 per cent stake in Northern Telecom, a Canadian company with interests in Britain.

Chopped off feet sewn back on

A man who hacked off both his feet with an axe was recovering in hospital last night—thanks to the prompt action of his wife and a woman nurse.

Mr Asim Mohammed, 28, of Aberlady Crescent, Dundee, was found at home by his pregnant wife, Karen, 21, who wrapped the severed feet in towels and put tourniquets on his legs.

She called WPC Susan Yeamao, who put the feet into a bucket of ice from a nearby chip shop. Surgeons at Dundee Royal Infirmary sewed back the feet in a 10-hour operation.

FitzGerald flies in for Chequers talks

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

AMID unprecedented security, Dr FitzGerald, Irish Prime Minister, arrived in Britain last night for talks with Mrs Thatcher today.

The venue had been changed from Dublin following the IRA bomb attack during the Conservative party conference at Brighton last month.

Fear of another terrorist attack also led to a new blacked-out security for the summit. The talks will focus on improving relations between the two Governments with particular reference to Northern Ireland.

The two leaders will discuss ways of increasing anti-terrorist co-operation.

IRA WARNING 'Totally humiliated'

The IRA issued a statement in Belfast last night threatening more trouble in Britain. It said: "We take this opportunity to warn the Irish people that the Dublin coalition Government, having been totally humiliated by Thatcher's dismissal of the Forum Report, is preparing to capitulate even further by offering to surrender its constitutional territorial claim to the North."

The statement, signed by P. O'Neill, said: "The IRA will remain the conscience of the nation which wants Ireland united and the British to withdraw, and will act accordingly against the British occupation forces."

NEW BY-PASS

By Our Transport Correspondent

A £12,850,000 bypass for Stonehaven, Grampian, will be opened today, six months early, by Mr Ancram, Scottish Office Minister for Home Affairs and Environment.

Gummer answers bishops

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

THE wrangling between the Church of England and the Government, increased yesterday when Mr John Selwyn Gummer, Conservative party chairman, replied to recent criticism by some bishops of Government economic policies.

He said that, although bishops had a duty and a right to speak out, they could "no more pontificate on economics than the Pope could correct Galileo on physics."

His words, delivered in a sermon at the University Church of St Mary's in Cambridge, reflected the views of the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers about what they regard as political interference by bishops.

Mr Gummer, son of a canon and a member of the Church of England's General Synod, was particularly critical of the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Wilson, and his speech to the Synod last week.

Mr Gummer said: "He suggested that there was a family in Sunderland whose children have to take it in turns to go to school at the moment as they only have one pair of shoes between them."

"Nobody in Sunderland had identified the family and the welfare authorities said they would immediately ensure that all second hand."

SCIENTISTS 'FIND LIFE ON MARS'

By Our Science Correspondent

Photographic evidence of what may be the remains of a vanished alien civilisation on Mars is to be presented, next month, to President Reagan's science adviser by a team of American scientists.

The team has been supported by studies of the Congressional Research Service in Washington and by groups representing many scientific disciplines at the University of California.

CHRISTMAS POST DISCOUNT

By Our Philatelic Correspondent

For the first time, the Post Office will sell its Christmas stamps at a discount this year. They go on sale tomorrow in five values—15p, 17p, 22p, 31p and 34p—showing nativity scenes drawn by Yvonne Gilbert.

Booklets containing 20 of the 13 stamps will be available at £2.50 each, a discount of 50p. Only two booklets per purchase will be allowed.

BUILDING IS THE DEADLIEST JOB

The building trade is now the most dangerous industry in which to work, says the Health and Safety Commission.

Overall, accidents at work killed 45 people last year and seriously injured 11,499 others, it says. More than 2,200 building workers were killed or seriously injured, compared with 887 miners.

Shops to check all Mars bars in poison hunt

By JOHN WEEKS Crime Staff

MILLIONS of Mars bars will be checked on shelves in supermarkets and shops today following claims by animal rights campaigners that they have injected rat poison into bars all over the country.

Suspect Mars containing typewritten notes hidden in the wrappers have been reported in six towns. Some had already been eaten by children, who were sent for medical checks over the weekend.

But so far there is no evidence that any of the chocolate bars actually contained poison.

The warning was given by the Animal Liberation Front, which said it had found Mars in York, Leeds, Coventry, Southampton and London.

It accused Mars—which sells three million a day in Britain of funding a project at Guy's Hospital, London, in which monkeys are given a sugar-rich diet as part of research into tooth decay.

AIDS BLOOD KILLS TWO IN BRITAIN

By GRAHAM JONES

TWO people have died in Britain from the disease Aids after blood transfusions, it was disclosed yesterday.

One of them, Terence McStav, 35, received plasma imported from the United States during treatment for haemophilia at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. It is believed the plasma carried the Aids infection.

Mr McStav, a laboratory worker, died of Aids (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) at his parents home in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, last month. The disease is usually spread by homosexual contact but he was not homosexual.

Last night the Department of Health and the Scottish Office said they were stepping up monitoring of blood donors, and were appealing for "at risk" homosexuals and hard drug users not to give blood.

£1m PIT NEWS BILL

Coverage of the miners' strike by the BBC about £1 million, Michael Checkland, director of resources, said yesterday.

Details—P2

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Follow the Leader

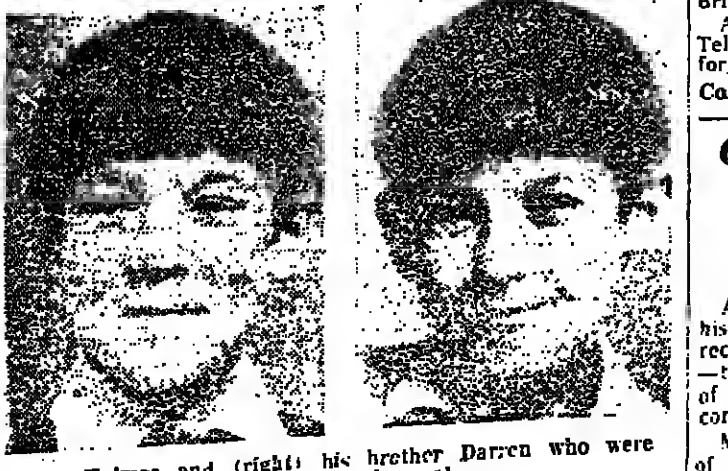
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Two boys die digging coal for pocket money



Paul Holmes and (right) his brother Darren who were killed digging for coal.

TWO teenaged brothers were killed yesterday when a railway embankment collapsed on them as they dug into a seam of coal which they were selling to raise Christmas pocket money.

Paul Holmes, 15, and Darren, 13, of Probert Avenue, Goldthorpe, near Doncaster, had hauled nine feet into the seam when the overhang collapsed, burying them under tons of rubble.

Another boy, Jimmy Rawson, 16, was seriously injured. Rescue workers used hands in shovels and bare hands to free the frantic scramble to free the three.

Fire Station Officer Graham Welch, 34, said: "The injured youth was buried up to his knees and was rescued by firemen and the police."

"When we reached the other two we gave them oxygen before they were taken to hospital. It was a difficult job requiring constant efforts to dig into the muddy and close shale."

Last night Jimmy Rawson was in hospital with broken legs and rib injuries.

The dead boys' father, Mr Trevor Holmes, unemployed, 38, said: "I have paid for the price of coal with my two sons' lives."

"They had been digging for coal to raise a bit of pocket money for Christmas."

The boys had been selling the fuel for 22 a sack—half the fuel for 22 a sack—and had a ready market. But the tunnel collapsed after days of heavy rain.

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LATE NEWS
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Daily Telegraph

We apologise to readers who were unable to obtain THE DAILY TELEGRAPH on Saturday. This was because of industrial action by some members of Sogat 82, who prevented publication of the London-printed editions. Manchester editions were printed normally.

Saturday's prize crossword is published on the back page today as well as the usual crossword.

Today's Weather

GENERAL SITUATION: Pressure low over Britain.

LONDON, S.E. ENGLAND, E. ANGLES, E. MIDLANDS: Dull, fog patches, bright spells, perhaps little rain. Wind N.W. light. Max. 45F (7C).

W. MIDLANDS, CEN. S. N.W. ENGLAND: Dull, misty start, mainly dry, bright spells. Wind N.W., light. 48F (9C).

E. N.E. ENGLAND, S.E. SCOTLAND: Rain at times. Wind N. to N.W., light or moderate. 47F (8C).

CHANNEL IS., S.W. ENGLAND, WALES, N. IRELAND: Scattered showers, some sun. Wind N. to N.W. or moderate. 50F (10C).

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind variable, force 1-3. Sea smooth.

ENG. CH. E.: N.E. backing N.W. 4 or 5. Slight or moderate.

ST. GEORGE'S CH., IRISH SEA: N.W. 4 or 5. Slight.

OCEAN: Mostly dry tomorrow, rain on Wednesday.

Weather Maps—P26.

1-in-2 MINERS 'BACK BY CHRISTMAS'

By JOHN RICHARDS Industrial Correspondent

THE Coal Board is hoping the return to work, which has seen more than 7,000 miners going back in the pits over the last fortnight, will accelerate further during this, the 37th week of the strike.

Mr Michael Eaton, board spokesman, said yesterday: "We have now got 60,000 N.U.M. members not on strike, and we have got 190,000 in the industry. The way they are coming back is increasing."

"That is my reason for saying it is very likely that by Christmas we shall have half the labour force back."

Mr Eaton said the payments of up to £1,400 awaiting the returning miners was not a bonus or an inducement. It was an accrued entitlement which they would receive in a bumper pay packet four weeks after they return to work.

He emphasised, speaking on BBC Radio's "World This Week" programme, that the boards precondition for any further negotiations, with the miners was the union's acceptance "of the fact that the management of this industry must be able to manage."

Otherwise Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman, and his negotiating team could not see a possibility of fresh peace talks. They were "dismayed" at the N.U.M.'s refusal to move at all on opposition to pit closures on economic grounds.

This position was disclosed by Mr MacGregor in a private letter to Mr Stanley Orme, Shadow Energy Secretary.

The Coal Board chairman is apparently demanding a written guarantee from Mr Arthur Scargill, N.U.M. president, that he is ready to shift his position on pit closures as a precondition of any further talks.

Filled with despair

Mr MacGregor also said he would not be prepared to accept Mr Orme as a negotiator on behalf of the N.U.M., only as a genuine mediator between the two parties.

The N.U.M. wants the board to promise "not to implement" its programme for closing 20 further pits with the loss of 20,000 jobs in a 4 million tons cutback of mining capacity during the next 12 months.

The board says Mr Scargill and his negotiators must "acknowledge and accept" the deal reached with Nacods, the pit deputies union, which contained an undertaking to "completely reconsider" the closure plans in the light of losses during the miners' strike and changing market conditions.

But Mr Eaton denied the board was relying on a drift back to work rather than fresh talks.

"The return to work is gathering pace because of the despair that our men feel, despair that talks are at an end and they don't see anywhere to go."

It is a matter of our men looking at the situation and wanting to defend and protect their industry."

He added: "We will guarantee job security to any miner returning to work and we have not moved away from that position. Men will be able to return to the pit where they were working when the strike began."

This promise "was being emphasised again in the light of threats by the N.U.M. that any miners who return could face suspension, and expulsion from the union."

Mr Eaton went on: "We hope our men are responsible enough, and I am sure that they are, to realise we have had a very difficult situation

MacGregor bonus cash postponed

By ROLAND GRIFFIN
Business Correspondent

A DECISION on a £700,000 bonus payment by the Government to cover part of Mr Ian MacGregor's period as British Steel chairman has been postponed to avoid a fresh furor about the Coal Board chairman.

Mr Lamont, Industry Minister, disclosed in the Commons yesterday that the Government had agreed with Lazard Freres, the New York investment house which employs Mr MacGregor, to defer a decision on the first of two performance-linked payments.

The Government paid the New York firm £375,000 in 1980 when Mr MacGregor started a three-year term as head of British Steel and agreed to pay a further £1,500,000 if the State corporation met performance targets under his leadership.

The first of the payments, worth £700,000, is based on the corporation's results for the year ending March 31 and was due to be paid this year. The size of the payment will be based on an assessment of British Steel's progress towards reducing losses, moves towards privatisation, output and productivity.

Informal meetings

The joint Department of Trade and Industry and Lazard Freres review committee set up to consider whether the payment should be made has had informal meetings to discuss the payment. The committee is chaired by Mr John Gardiner, chairman of the Lazard Group.

The Government is anxious to avoid announcing a settlement during the miners' strike. Ministers are concerned that an announcement would provide a platform for Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, for further personal attacks on Mr MacGregor at a time when the Government is anxious for the chairman to maintain a low profile.

Mr Lamont has reached an agreement with Lazard Freres to postpone consideration of the first and second performance payments. The second payment will be based on the corporation's performance in the current tax year where losses are rising because of the coal strike.

The Government has already made a payment of £1½ million to Lazard Freres to cover Mr MacGregor's three-year term as Coal Board chairman.

ANNUAL 'MOT' REJECTED BY TEACHERS

By Our Education Staff

The National Union of Teachers would not be hounded off by the employers' latest offer of higher pay in return for worsened conditions of service, and there would be a "major struggle" over pay in 1985, Mr Douglas McAvoy, deputy general secretary, said.

"I can think of no greater insult to teachers than to suggest the need for an 'annual MOT', the equivalent of an MOT," he told a Glasgow rally. He was referring to the annual assessment for teachers proposed in the package unveiled by the employers last week.

Mr McAvoy was seeking the help of Scottish teachers, who accepted a 4.5 per cent offer while those in England and Wales refused it and opted for strikes and slow-downs.

Education Column—P13



Lady Davina Windsor (right), daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, who celebrates her seventh birthday today, pictured at Kensington Palace with her brother, Alexander, Earl of Ulster, 10, and sister, Lady Rose Windsor, four.

Union official urges return to work

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE miner who has promised publicly he will return to work today is Mr John Cunningham, N.U.M. branch secretary at Ellington colliery, the biggest in the North-East. He announced his decision at a meeting of 500 striking miners in Ashington on Saturday.

Mr Cunningham said yesterday that his announcement had been greeted with "stony silence and shock."

But as he left the meeting, some miners applauded him and there were no shouts of "scab" as he had expected.

Mr Cunningham told the meeting: "I recommend all members in here to follow me on the road to sanity." He then attacked the N.U.M. leadership when "don't know the meaning of unity or democracy and are hell-bent on destruction."

"I always thought trade unionism was for wages, conditions and the betterment of mankind," he said.

A gaffer's man
The 56-year-old official, who has been branch secretary at the pit for eight years, was "automatically suspended" from office, according to Mr Jeff Gobin, the branch chairman.

"John has always been a gaffer's man and the board has obviously got to him. He has never been a very active secretary."

A statement from Mr Denis M. H. Northumberland, N.U.M. area president, and Mr Sam Scott, area secretary, said: "Despite the back-to-work statement of Mr John Cunningham, Ellington miners at the lodge meeting indicated their solid support for the N.U.M.'s fight to save pits, jobs and communities."

Mr Cunningham said yesterday that he had always felt the N.U.M. should have held a national ballot. That was the men's right. But he admitted his decision could split his family as one of his two sons, John, was "100 per cent behind the strike" and his other son, Philip, would be "flabbergasted."

Mr Philip Cunningham said on BBC radio later that he hoped the men at Ellington would respect his father's decision.

SPENDING CUTS PLEA BY BBC

By ROBIN STRINGER
TV and Radio Correspondent

BBC programme-makers are being asked to cut spending to prevent the corporation running £7 million over budget by the end of the financial year.

The BBC said last night that the £7 million represented only two per cent of the annual £350 million spent on making programmes and that the request for cutbacks was a routine corrective measure.

But the request made last week by Mr Bill Cotton, BBC Television's managing director, has caused gloom and despondency among BBC department heads.

Financial review

Pressure on them and the BBC to "come in on budget" next March is severe.

The corporation is seeking from the Government an increase in the colour television licence fee from £46 to around £67 and is now the subject of a financial review being conducted by Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, the accountants, at the instigation of the Home Office.

News of the cutbacks also comes at an embarrassing time for Mr Alasdair Milne, the director-general, who was in Hongkong at the weekend with several of his senior executives and their wives to be installed as President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Union.

Expenses, it is understood, were being met by the BBC.

The need for cutbacks, to expenditure on programme-making has arisen because of overspending by various departments. Particularly guilty in this regard are news and current affairs and they are being asked to bear the brunt of the economies.

They, in reply, point to the impossibility of hedging for the Falklands conflict, the Brighton bombing, the Ethiopian famine and the miners' strike.

Mr Michael Cheekland, the BBC's director of resources, said yesterday that news coverage of the miners' strike alone had probably added £1 million to the news department's budget.

60 TO LOSE JOBS

Sixty workers are to be made redundant by the end of the month at Stevenson's Fabric Driers, of Somerscales, South Derbyshire. The company said it hoped to find jobs for some of them elsewhere in the group.

Austin rebellion grows as Cowley men go back

By JOHN RICHARDS Industrial Correspondent

THE two-week strike at Austin Rover car plants crumbled further at the weekend with 450 of the 800 Engineering Union workers at the Cowley, Oxford, body and assembly works voting two-to-one for a return.

Previously the AUEW men had agreed to accept the company's 10 per cent pay offer, but were refusing to cross picket lines.

Their decision was followed yesterday by pipefitters and patternmakers who will also go back today.

Mr Nirmal Haslam, director of employee relations, said: "We made it quite clear two weeks ago that our offer was final and I am amazed that the union is still pursuing this futile dispute."

Negotiations on the dispute collapsed again on Friday evening and the company will be returning to the High Court today to seek damages against those unions, including the Transport and General Workers' union, who have not repudiated the strike in line with a High Court injunction granted two weeks ago.

Picket lines

Last week, the company said that 12,000 men were working and 15,000 were still out with normal production at 11 of the 14 Austin Rover plants and limited production at Metcra and Montego possible, after 2,250 crossed the picket lines at Longbridge, Birmingham, and 1,100 at Cowley.

Another 250 electricians will be returning at Longbridge today after voting to suspend their strike pending a secret ballot.

ATTACK ON 'AGGRESSIVE' TAXMEN

AGGRESSIVE tax inspectors are forcing taxpayers to become less honest, according to a survey published today.

Relationships between the Inland Revenue and the business world have deteriorated over the last two years because of the harsh line being taken by inspectors, adds the survey.

The survey, produced by Tax File, the tax information service, comes as the Revenue step up the drive on tax dodges and the "black economy." A further 1,000 tax inspectors are being switched in "investigative work" during the next three years.

Accountants and businessmen questioned for the survey believe that the drive will backfire. Only 10 per cent feel it will make taxpayers more honest while 46 per cent think it will encourage them to be dishonest.

Forty-one per cent said relationships with the Revenue had worsened since tax inspectors increased checks in eight per cent, reporting a serious deterioration, 42 per cent, no change and 9 per cent, an improvement.

They complained that inspectors had become too aggressive and "adversarial" and said they had to battle harder for their rights.

BR gives warning of second fare rise

By JOHN PETTY Transport Correspondent

BRITISH RAIL has given warning that the increase in fares due to take effect from Jan. 6, may be followed by another rise.

It said that the January increase, averaging 6½ per cent, was not a way of covering freight losses caused by the coal strike. About 5 per cent of the increase is caused by inflation and the rest will help to pay for modernisation.

But fares may have to rise again if, as expected, much of the coal and ore trade fails to return to the railways after the strike. In that case, more of the cost of maintaining tracks and signals would fall on passenger services as freight trains were reduced.

Heavy losses

British Rail is losing vast sums because of the pit strike and the refusal of some railwaymen to move coal and iron ore. Its losses are running at £150 million for the current year and amounting by £5 million for every week the strike continues.

The percentage increase in fares in January will vary from route to route. Details will be available at stations early next month.

The airport link single fare from London to Gatwick will rise from £5.50 to £5.70 which "is about 10p more than if the average had been applied."

Other examples include a rise from £22.60 to £24.30 on the

Luton-Muragata line for weekly tickets, from £16.10 to £18.10 for day returns Brighton-London, and from £22 to £25 for London-Leeds "Saver Returns" Saturday-Thursdays.

Underground fares will rise by an average of 9 per cent, also on Jan. 6. The London Transport increase is greater because it has held its fares for 19 months compared with a year on British Rail.

Most longer journeys on the London Underground will go up by 10p, but only a few of the minimum-fare journeys will be dearer. On London buses, "short-hop" fares will rise from 20p to 25p, the two-zone fare will increase from 50p to 55p and the three-zone fare from 70p to 80p.

The special cheap maximum fares on Sundays will end. The standard fare for children on London buses will rise from 10p to 15p.

But the premium levied on Underground journeys beyond the London boundary will be ended now that the system is under central Government instead of the Greater London Council. London Transport is now officially described as "a nationalised industry."

"Our fare rises are being held in line with inflation and some will still be cheaper than they were in 1980," said Dr Keith Bright, chairman of London Transport.

Examples of British Rail increases are:

ANNUAL TICKETS TO LONDON (2ND CLASS)

	Present	New	Percentage rise
Brighton	£1,074	£1,147	6.8
Bletchley	£1,038	£1,102	6.2
East Croydon	£440	£477	8.4
Slough	£679	£726	7.4
Southend	£939	£1,004	6.9
Tonbridge	£885	£942	6.2

ORDINARY SINGLES TO LONDON (2ND CLASS)

	Present	New	Percentage rise
Birmingham	£12.70	£13.40	5.5
Bournemouth	£11.50	£12.10	5.2
Bristol	£13.20	£14	6.1
Cardiff	£16.10	£17.10	6.2
Edinburgh	£37	£39	5.4
Glasgow	£34.80	£36.30	5.8
Leeds	£21.50	£23	7
Liverpool and Manchester	£21.50	£22.50	4.7
Newcastle	£31	£33	6.5
Nottingham	£13.50	£14.60	8.1
Norwich	£12.50	£13	5.7
Sheffield	£17.40	£18.50	5.2
York	£21.50	£23	7

Tube jobs under threat

By JOHN PETTY
Transport Correspondent

ENDING of more than half the 1,400 jobs at the Acton Tube train repair and maintenance depot is being proposed to unions by London Transport which is already seeking to axe 3,150 jobs on the Underground and 3,000 bus conductors.

In each case it is hoped to make the cuts through early retirements, natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. It wants 250 Acton jobs to go as soon as possible and another 300 to vanish over six years.

Much of the work would be transferred to local depots, but a new works costing £12 million would be built at Acton though

it would need only "between 500 and 400 people." About 50 workers could be switched to other depots.

"Acton was built in the 1920s and much of the work it used to do is no longer needed," said London Transport. "A lot of the work can now be done at local depots."

It is the main maintenance centre for trains, lifts and escalators, covering more than 50 acres. Work has become so short that at times London Transport has been paying men to do nothing.

A spokesman for the National Union of Railwaymen said the plan would be resisted. "There is no way we can go along with anything that involved hundreds of our members losing their jobs," said Mr Vernon Thorne, assistant general secretary of the NUR.



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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
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US HELPS 'AIDS' BLOOD TESTS IN AUSTRALIA

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

REPORTS that 13 people have died after receiving blood from a Queensland Aids carrier have caused distress almost amounting to panic.

Although it appears that only four of these deaths can possibly be attributed to Aids, the fact that a single donor was involved has caused nationwide concern.

A meeting of Federal and State Ministers in Melbourne yesterday decided to spend more than £1.5 million for blood-screening tests.

Emergency equipment will be flown to Australia from the United States.

The Health Ministers met for more than five hours to coordinate action in an effort to prevent further distress among those who have received blood and to ensure that practising male homosexuals are effectively prevented from continuing as donors.

In Queensland, where three infants have died after receiving blood from the one homosexual donor, emergency legislation has been rushed through all stages of Parliament, providing for heavy fines and up to two years imprisonment for male homosexuals who donate blood in disregard of official bans.

1,000 bottles

Some of the cause for alarm is the result of distribution throughout Australia of more than 1,000 bottles which are believed to contain diseased blood.

Fifty of the 1,000 bottles have been sent to Perth, in Western Australia. Eleven units have been used on three patients.

The Western Australian government has now banned all men, whether they are homosexuals or not, from giving blood.

The Federal government has decided to establish immediately a national reference centre. It will be set up at the Fairfield Infections Diseases Hospital in Melbourne, in an effort to counter the disease.

An Aids task force, headed by the chairman of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Prof. David Pennington, has been appointed to draw up uniform blood declaration forms for donors.

This will apply in all states. The task force will also draw up a report on legislation covering blood donors who make false declarations.

One cause for concern among people who have received blood in recent times arises from the long period of Aids incubation. Although medical authorities continue to insist that the risk of infection is low, because blood plasma from a single donor is mixed up to 2,000 times, haemophiliacs are understood to be very concerned.

The suspected blood given by the Queensland homosexual was used in the manufacture of two anti-clotting agents, Factor 8 and Prothrombinex.

More than 600 batches of Factor 8 have been distributed in Victoria, while more than 4,000 bottles of Prothrombinex have been distributed in Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia.

Medical authorities have issued reassuring statements that there is no danger of the disease spreading like an epidemic. Prof. Pennington has said that the risk of contracting Aids from one in 100,000.

If there was a need for a blood transfusion, the risks associated with not having it are far greater than any risks of contracting Aids, he said.

VIRUS BLAMED

Test possibility

Dr K. C. HUTCHINSON, Medical Consultant, writes: A great deal of research into the cause of Aids is being carried out in this country and elsewhere. It is now thought that Aids is caused by a virus known as HTLV-3 or variants of it. Assuming that this is the case, blood transfusions could be made safer by applying a specific test to donors to exclude infection with this virus.

The ability to identify the donor of blood used in blood transfusions depends on the type of transfusion. Whole blood transfusions in the traditional type are usually on the basis of one donor to one patient so that it may be possible to identify the sources of the blood.



The Abbey Cat, built by pupils of Whitley Abbey Comprehensive School, Coventry, yesterday won the B.P. Builders' £1,000 prize in competition with 15 other school finalists. The cars were judged and demonstrated at the Army's School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Burton, Hampshire.

2 POLICE SERGEANTS DROWNED

TWO off-duty policemen who drowned off Cleethorpes while out angling at the weekend, may have tried to walk ashore from their dinghy in the dark and blundered into a treacherous, fast flowing creek.

This was the coastguard's theory after the body of one policeman was found seven miles from Cleethorpes at Telsey Lock, where the open dinghy was also washed ashore.

Both men were staying at Humberston's Beacholme Holiday Camp where 2,000 policemen doing Yorkshire mining picket duty are quartered.

Leicester police said the body was that of Sgt Anthony Lawrence, 38. The other officer, whose body has not yet been recovered, is Sgt John Bell, 38. Both were married with families.

FATHER DROWNED

Boy saved by anorak

Police frogmen yesterday searched the River Trent, near Nottingham, for a man who drowned while trying to rescue his 15-month-old son. The toddler, said to be critical in Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre, only survived because his anorak kept him afloat until he was pulled from the water by a fisherman.

Fishermen later rescued a second boy, aged four, from the boat which drifted out of control down river.

Van in River

A man drowned when his van plunged into the Thames at Reading, Berks. Mr. Ivan Kingsnorth, of York Road, Reading, was found floating in the back of his van after it was pulled from the river at Caversham by firemen.

Spinster, 78, suffocated

POLICE in Exeter have launched a murder investigation after the discovery of the body of an elderly woman.

Miss Eunice Flashman, 78, a local eccentric, who had been beaten and then suffocated.

A plastic bag was found over her head and she had head and chest injuries. Mrs. Flashman had been seen leaving her home on Thursday, and when her landlord opened her bed-sitting room in Monk's Road, Exeter, he found her body sprawled on the bed.

Police believe the motive was theft because Mrs. Flashman, who always dressed in black and wore plastic bags around her shoes, was reputed to have kept money and valuable at home. But detectives say there may have been little more than her pension.

House ransacked

Police in Banstead, Surrey, were treating a suspected murder, last night, the death of an elderly man found locked inside his ransacked house in Thornfield Road.

THREE CLEARED OF £266,000 MAIL THEFT

Three postmen at Euston Station have been cleared by an Old Bailey jury of stealing a £266,000 theft from registered mail on an Inter-City train more than two years ago.

A fourth postman, Stephen Horncastle, 34, of Downham Road, Dagenham, who earlier admitted his part in the plot, is to be sentenced today by Judge Oliver Martin, QC.

His three colleagues, who contested the allegations — Keith Ward, 35, of Ruskin Avenue, Waltham Abbey; Terence Conolly, 28, of Wellers Grove, Chesham, Herts; and Daniel Courvoisier, 35, of Brooks Road, Plaistow — were acquitted.

British crew of 'marijuana mother ship' are charged

By IAN BALL in New York

WITH the seizure of a British-registered coastal freighter, the Ramsland, off Boston harbour, Customs investigators believe they have stumbled upon a marijuana "mother ship" that was to transfer bales of the drug to smaller ships off the New England coast.

The captain and five crew members, all said to be from Kent, have been charged with drug smuggling.

Authorities in Boston have identified them as Andreas George Mallion, 24, who was acting as captain; his brother Gary, 25; Kevin Barry Tate, 23; Wesley Mallard Simmons, 20; Barry James Cagger, 25 and John Harrison, 45.

A crew of dockers, meanwhile, spent Sunday laboriously

digging through 5 to 5 ft of stone ballast in the hold to get at a concealed cargo area.

"As we went away the bottom deck of the hold we are finding more bales of marijuana," said Mr. Edward Callanan, a spokesman for the United States Customs Service.

"We expect to find a multi-ton cargo of contraband."

The 215-foot ramsland was seized by a Customs boarding party last week after it was ordered into Boston harbour by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard's suspicions had been aroused when a cutter observed the Ramsland moving on an erratic course.

The six men aboard were detained while Customs officers searched the ship. The smuggling charges were brought against them when Humphrey, a drug-smuggling gold retriever, led his handlers to six 50-pound bales of marijuana.

FIRE VICTIM NAMED

A woman of 73 who died in a fire at her flat at the weekend was named yesterday as Mrs. Edna J. Longstaff.

A cigarette may have started the fire at her home in York Drive, Newark, Notts.

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BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Falcons face growing egg thieves threat

By GUY RAIS

DESPITE increased surveillance and 24-hour guards, thefts of protected wild birds and their eggs, including the much-prized peregrine falcon, are on the increase in Britain.

HAYWARD FIGHT FOR COURTS

By JOHN GRIGSEY
Local Government Correspondent

FUTURE control of the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank of the Thames is now likely to be decided in the courts.

The Arts Council has served a counter-notice on the Greater London Council which recently gave the arts body three months' notice to quit. It said that it would not be willing to give up its occupation of the Hayward in March 25.

It also said that it intended to go ahead with the Hayward Annual, its exhibition of work by British artists, next summer.

Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the council's arts and recreation committee, said the council intended to replace the Hayward Annual with its own exhibition, giving more emphasis to the work of women and black artists.

Basement stock

The G.I.C. had previously accepted after receiving legal advice, that the Arts Council should go ahead with its exhibition programme, including Renoir, Edward Burra, Degeas as a printmaker. Hockney's works for the stage, and artists associated with Barcelona.

But it has given the Arts Council notice to quit the basement, where between 200 and 500 paintings or sculptures are kept at any one time.

Although it is to be abolished in 1986, the G.I.C. intends to appoint a director, curators and other professional staff for the gallery.

BRIGHTON VICTIM IS RELEASED

Mr Donald MacLean, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Association, injured in the Brighton bombing, left the Royal Sussex County Hospital at the weekend. He will require further hospital treatment in Glasgow.

His wife Muriel, who died from her injuries, is to be buried on Thursday. The last victim still in the Brighton hospital, Mr John Wakeham, 60, was Government's Chief Whip, was said yesterday to be progressing well.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has made a video film of methods of protection which is being shown to police forces with areas covering bird sanctuaries.

According to Mr Peter Robinson, the Society's senior investigation officer, the theft of birds and their eggs has made a sizeable dent in Britain's peregrine population, the heaviest in Europe.

Nests have been plundered from Cumbria to the Scottish Highlands by men who sell to the highest bidder. An egg may be worth up to £500 on the black market, and chicks can fetch up to £2,000 in the Middle East and West Germany.

Mr Kenneth Shaw, the Society's Assistant Regional officer for the North-East yesterday described the North-east as one of the worst areas in Britain for theft of eggs, and young protected birds.

"Egg collectors may pretend they are carried away by their obsessions, but in reality they are just plain thieves. In some bad years almost half the eggs have been robbed. There are people making a good living out of the illegal trading in peregrine falcons and other rare wild birds."

Warm armpits

Ingenious methods have been used to smuggle birds of prey out of Britain. Newly-hatched chicks wrapped in newspapers and hidden in a wing of a light aircraft alerted Customs officers of the latest attempts.

Some couriers kept smugged fertile eggs warm under their armpits sufficiently long enough for them to be flown considerable distances.

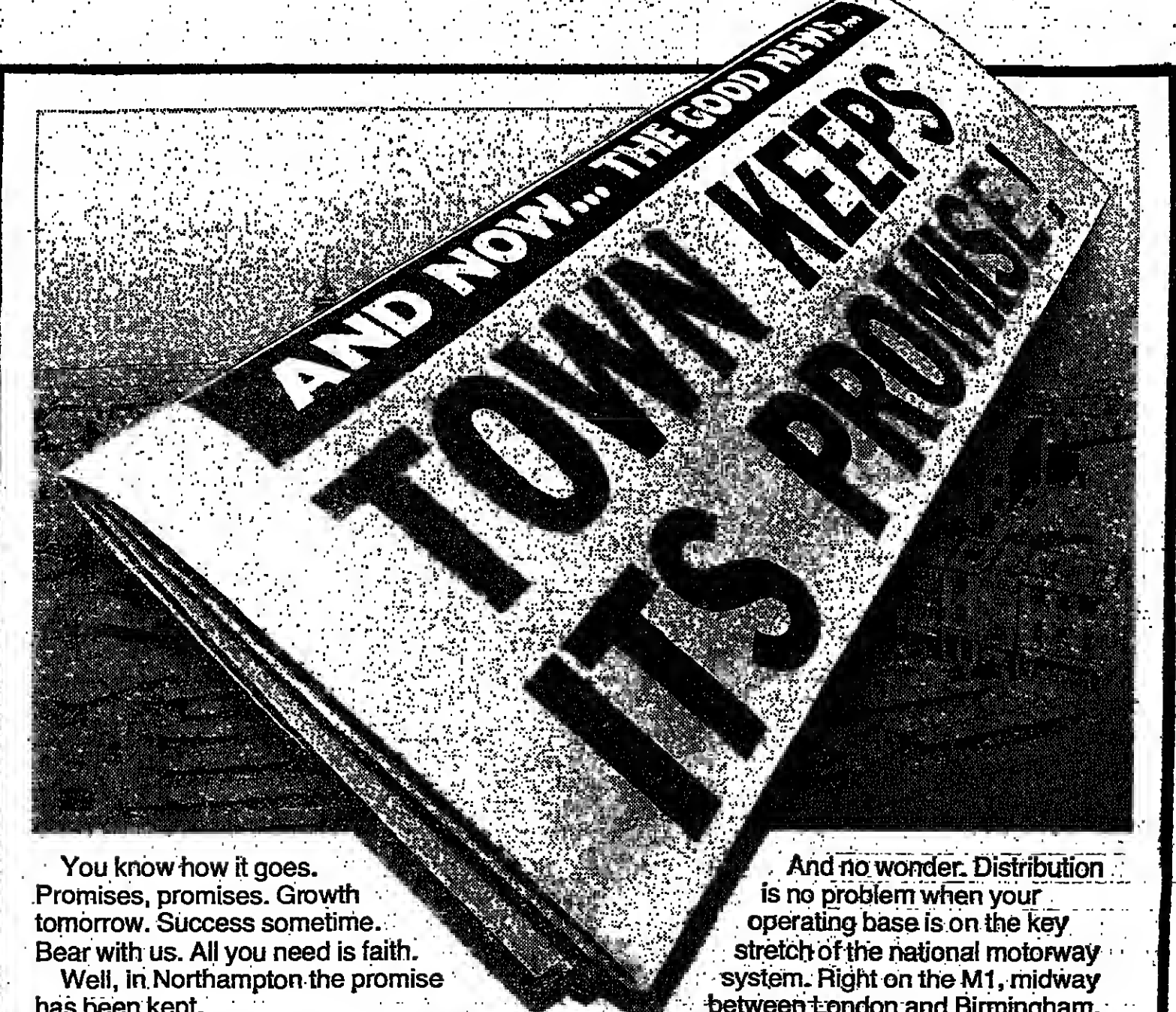
Others wrap eggs in cotton wool in a belt concealed under their clothing. They are not subjected to body searches at airports and pass through metal detectors and other electronic surveillance devices without detection.

Mr Robinson said the Society was working in conjunction with the police and had some success in tracking and catching some of the thieves.

GLASS ATTACK BY SOCCER THUG

Marine Ross Cluett, 20, based at Stonehouse barracks, Plymouth, needed 42 stitches after mouth, needed 42 stitches after a glass was smashed in his face by a Millwall football supporter at Saturday's FA Cup before at Weymouth, where he was visiting his parents.

At a special sifting of Weymouth magistrates' court, Desmond Kinsella, 19, of Peckham, London, was remanded in custody for two weeks after admitting causing grievous bodily harm.



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KREMLIN CALLS FOR 'CONCRETE ACTION' BY U.S.

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

MOSCOW has launched a campaign designed to force the United States into making the first concessions to revive stalled arms control negotiations.

The campaign is more extensive and subtle than the usual propaganda effort. It is making itself felt throughout Soviet-American relations, affecting the working conditions of exchange students in Moscow as well as prospects for a presidential summit.

President Chernenko and the Prime Minister, Mr. Tikhonov, both urged President Reagan at the weekend to produce concrete actions to back up his expressed desire for improved relations.

Mr. Chernenko held out the prospect of setting a date for summit talks, but made clear that conditions could not be considered "ripe" while Washington's recent statements about seeking arms control solutions "remain just words."

Mr. Tikhonov said Moscow had repeatedly stated its desire for good relations with Washington on a basis of equality, equal security and non-intervention.

The choice therefore is now for the United States to make. Mr. Tikhonov told an audience in Soviet Georgia: "And it can make it by concrete actions primarily in the key area of limitation and reduction of nuclear and other weapons."

Pressure by officials American graduate students putting pressure on Americans at lower levels.

Lesser officials are reflecting the Kremlin attitude and in Moscow say promised access to scholarly archives is being withheld from them by exchange-programme officials who link the question of archive access to the attitude of the United States on key East-West issues.

One student quoted an official as saying: "How can you expect to have access to our archives while your government maintains its present position toward the Soviet Union?"

Senior Western diplomats say there has been some moderation in the Kremlin's tone toward Washington in the weeks surrounding President Reagan's reelection, but no evidence yet of any fundamental change by the Russians to make a resumption of arms talks possible. Moscow's efforts are aimed at trying to force

U.S. looks for early talks with Gromyko

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE United States is planning a series of private discussions with Soviet officials leading to full-scale "umbrella" negotiations on all aspects of the arms control issue.

Mr. Shultz, the Secretary of State, will be consulting the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Dobrynin.

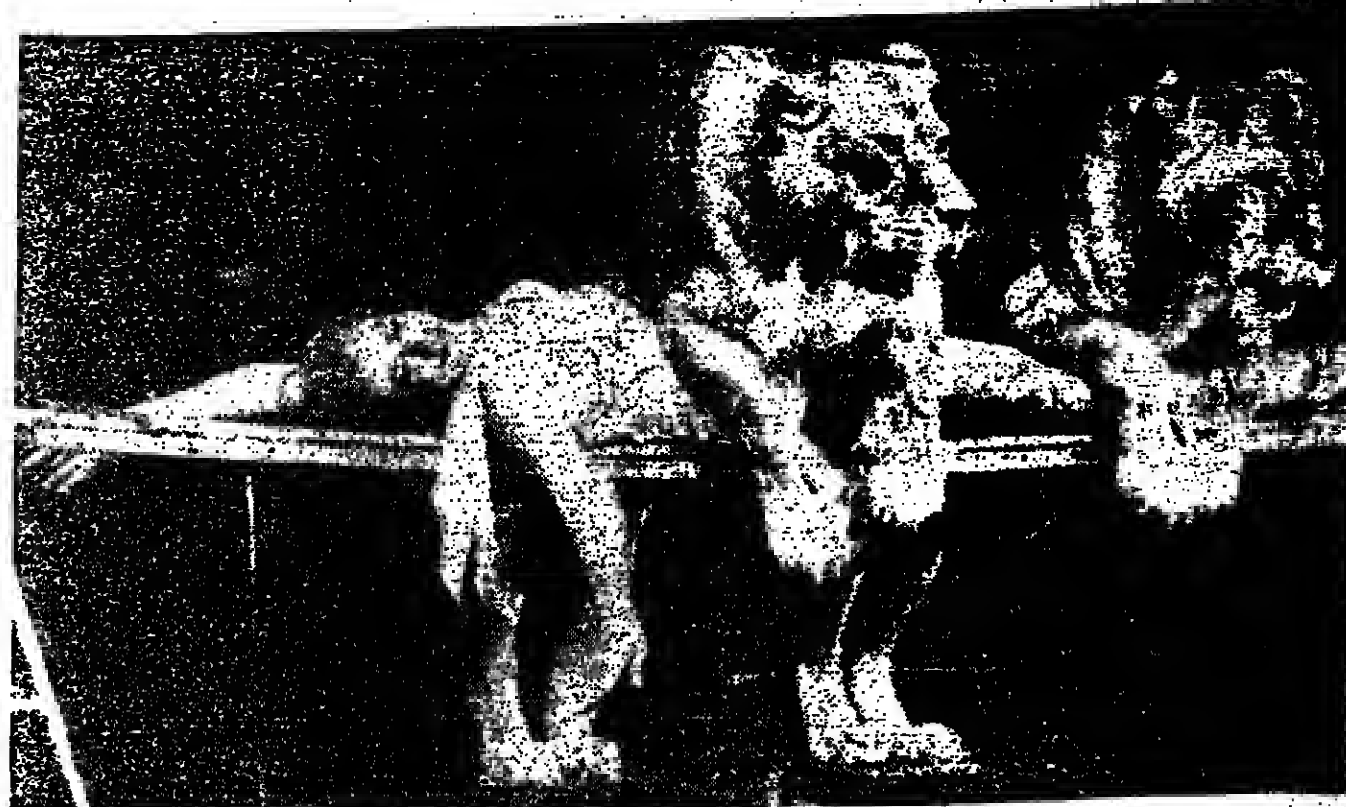
Similar negotiations will be conducted in Moscow which is held to lead to a meeting in Moscow in the New Year between Mr. Shultz and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko.

After a year of deadlock in nuclear arms negotiations leading up to the United States presidential elections, American officials now see some movement in the process.

They are particularly encouraged by the statement on Friday by the Soviet leader, Mr. Chernenko, who urged the renewal of a spirit of détente and said that Moscow was ready for arms control talks.

In response Mr. Shultz said it was time for both sides to "sit down in small groups and work concretely on problems and look for a real result."

But despite President Reagan's call for "umbrella" talks as a way of breaking the current impasse, the Administration is still deeply divided on its negotiating strategy.



Two lionesses crouching over Ludmilla Chevchenko as she lies on a board during her act with lions and tigers in the Circus of Moscow, at present appearing in Paris.

ARGENTINA ARMS SALE INQUIRY

By IAN BALL in New York

A FEDERAL grand jury in New York is investigating how several million dollars worth of American-made night-vision devices were acquired by Argentina during the Falklands war in violation of an American embargo.

Britain, which seized many of the night-vision goggles after the surrender of Argentine units, has been working closely with American Federal agents investigating the case.

The captured devices, which sell for \$6,000 (£3,450) apiece, have been made available in London for an inspection by a United States Customs official.

According to American Press reports the focus of the investigation is a Manhattan firm called H.L.B. Security Electronics Ltd. and its president, Mr. Leonard Berg. Mr. Berg was charged earlier this year for allegedly trying to ship arms to Poland.

British and American intelligence are reported to have been surprised the devices were found in the Argentine arsenal. Requests by Buenos Aires to buy the devices had been rejected in Washington.

'Shipped to Mexico'

There has been no official word in Washington or London on how many of the devices were captured.

But investigators in New York are said to have located an export licence showing that more than 1,000 of the goggles, sold to Mr. Berg's company by the makers, Litton Industries, were shipped to Mexico during the Falklands war.

The Customs investigators suspect that from Mexico there were clandestine shipments urgently needed by the Argentine junta.

Mr. Berg is reported to have shown American officials documents indicating that H.L.B. Security Electronics Ltd. sold the equipment to an individual in the United States.

Last month a former H.L.B. vice-president, Mr. Grimm Depanich, was charged with having conspired to ship 400 night-vision goggles illegally to the Soviet Union.

100 KILLED IN BORDER RAIDS

By Our Islamabad Correspondent

Troops of Mr. Barbrak Karmal's Russian-backed regime in Kabul have killed 100 people, most of them Afghan refugees, and wounded a further 100. In at least 70 violations inside Pakistani territory, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday in Islamabad.

These cross-border violations by land and air took place between Jan. 1 and the middle of November this year. He said the aircraft were piloted by Russians although the bombers carry Afghan Air Force markings.

S. African detentions anger business chiefs

By CHRISTOPHER MUNNION in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA'S leading business and commercial organisations have clashed with the Government over the recent detentions of trade union leaders, which they say could destroy industrial peace.

The organisations have complained that delicate negotiations to avert calls for a second mass work stoppage by black employees were wrecked when security police arrested 12 trade unionists.

Dr. Johan Van Zyl, executive director of the Federated Chamber of Industries, said yesterday: "We were making good progress until the detentions began."

Mr. Louis le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, has linked the detentions with three months of unrest in the black townships in which 160 people died.

The country's three major employers' organisations condemned the detentions and warned the Government that "harmonious and productive relations" with black workers were at stake.

Executives of the organisations are due to meet Mr. le Grange this week to put their case and to hear the Government's views.

But all indications are that the Government is unrepentant about its heavy-handed response to the unrest. President Botha

Security for Rajiv rally to be tight

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi

A TIGHT security cordon will surround Mr. Rajiv Gandhi today when India's new Prime Minister makes his first public appearance at a rally in New Delhi since his mother's assassination.

Troops and police will also be on duty in the capital to avoid any repetition of the anti-Sikh riots that followed Mrs. Gandhi's death in which 851 people are known to have died in New Delhi alone, and 1,277 nationwide.

More than 100,000 people are expected to attend the rally in commemorative which would have been Mrs. Gandhi's 57th birthday. Rajiv is expected to use the occasion to launch his campaign to win next month's General Election.

The ruling Congress (Indira) party recently "the sympathy vote" for Mr. Gandhi as one of its major election platforms and party leaders are anxious that he derive as much political capital from the rally as possible.

The party, it seems, will use audio and video cassettes of Mrs. Gandhi's speeches as one of their main thrusts of the election campaign. These comprise mainly her appeals to voters at previous elections and attacks on Opposition parties.

Extradition move

There was also confusion in New Delhi yesterday over whether the Indian government intended to apply for the extradition from Norway of Mr. Harinder Singh, 37, a former diplomat, who had been named as the alleged mastermind behind the plot to assassinate Mrs. Gandhi.

Newspapers in India said security officials wanted to question Mr. Singh, the former chargé d'affaires in Oslo, over his alleged role in the murder conspiracy, but an official spokesman for India's Ministry of External Affairs said he had no information about any extradition request.

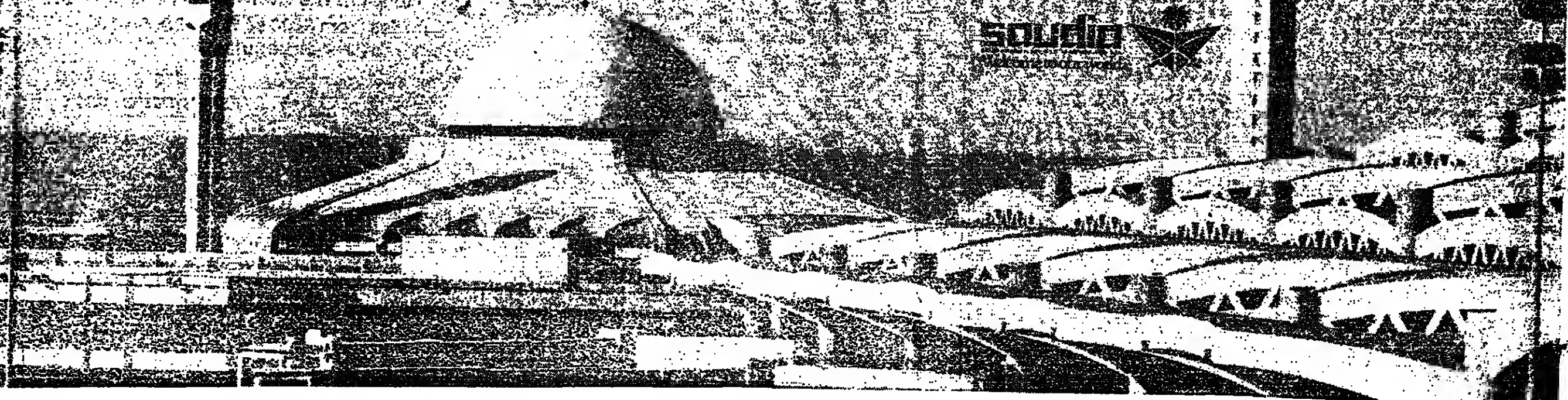
Mr. Singh resigned his Oslo post in protest over the storming of the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar.

NORWAY FIRM Plot denied

JULIAN ISHERWOOD in Oslo writes: Norway has not received any extradition request from India for the return of Mr. Harinder Singh, a former Indian diplomat in Oslo, nor would the Norwegian government be likely to comply with such a request, according to the Ministry of Justice.

Harinder Singh has denied Indian newspaper reports that the only Sikh security guard alive after the assassination, Subant Singh, had told interrogators that the former envoy had paid him and his accomplice, Brahm Singh, \$100,000 to murder Mrs. Gandhi.

Non-stop flights to Riyadh leave London at 15.30 four days a week.



GADDAFI USE OF TERROR SHOWN BY 'HIT' FLASCO

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

THE Egyptian deception that caused the Libyans to announce a murder that did not take place was a graphic demonstration that Col Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is still using terror as policy, according to diplomats in London.

Western sources said there had been so many reports of Libyan "hit" teams at large that the warnings were being ignored. The Egyptian incident would make governments more security-conscious.

VITAL TALKS IN AMMAN FOR ARAFAT

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

PALESTINE Liberation officials said yesterday they were going ahead with a meeting of their National Council or Parliament in exile this week, which could split their ranks and depose their leaders or lead to new Middle East peace negotiations.

The National Council has been convened for next Thursday in Amman. But the invitations have been sent out by the Deputy Speaker, and already four of the member groups have said they will not attend.

The decision to hold the meeting was taken by Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman and leader of al Fatah, his biggest group. It means he has finally decided to challenge Syria, which bitterly opposes the convening of the conference.

252 for a quorum
Arafat needs 252 of the 370 Council members to be present to get a quorum. After that he has to get majority backing to retain his own position as leader and gain approval for new peace talks to be led by King Hussein of Jordan.

President Assad of Syria has been trying to get control of the PLO to bolster his country's standing and authority, and he has backed a dissident PLO group led by Col Said Musa-Abu Musa.

None of the National Council members living in Syria will be allowed to attend the Amman meeting. Jordanian officials also fear that Syria will seek to cause trouble by bombings and assassinations.

Israel meanwhile is barring delegates from travelling from the West Bank to Amman for the meeting. Israel has no desire to see a triumph for the relatively moderate Arafat, and fears that a mandate in King Hussein to negotiate for the Palestinians would lead to pressure from America.

At least six Libyan opponents of Col Gaddafi have been killed in Britain alone, and most other European countries have also suffered. The result has been tight control of all Libyans.

President Mubarak of Egypt said he was told of the plot against Mr Bakush while he was in Germany earlier this year. At the same time he learned of plans to murder European leaders.

FAMINE WARNING
By Our Staff Correspondent in Johannesburg
More than 150,000 people in Mozambique faced death from starvation, because food to relieve the effects of drought had been diverted to Ethiopia, Red Cross officials said in Maputo yesterday.

With the day-long violence the pro-independence Kanaks made good their promises to protest dramatically at the Paris plan for the island colony's protracted move towards independence. They are demanding immediate independence.

But with nearly all the votes counted, election officials said it appeared the conservative Republican party, which is supported by the French settlers, would win 34 seats in the new 42-seat Assembly.

Six seats were expected to go to a moderate Kanak group which is prepared to co-operate with France and two seats to the voting parties.

As supporters of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front occupied polling centres, hurled Molotov cocktails and threatened voters, police reacted with stun grenades and tear gas.

Some weeks ago members of the Front left New Caledonia for training in Libya. It is believed that much of yesterday's violence was plotted in camps outside Tripoli.

Yesterday's violence was geared to frightening more than 50 per cent of the voting public away from the polling booths in the hope that the elections would be officially declared null and void.

Police flown in
Earlier in the week the French authorities flew 280 special riot police from Paris to the colony to deal with the independence crisis in the colony stems from the delicate population balance among the 150,000 inhabitants.

Some 45 per cent are ethnic Melanesian islanders, referred to locally as Kanaks. The European French community makes up 35 per cent of the overall population. The remainder comprises Indo-Chinese and Polynesian immigrants.

A statute passed by the National Assembly in Paris on Sept. 6 granted New Caledonia "internal" autonomy. This purportedly gives the islanders full authority to undertake all decisions relating to foreign investment, education, labour laws and foreign relations.

Airlift from Assab runs out of food

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

THE airlift in famine victims in northern Ethiopia could run out of grain this week if fresh shipments do not arrive shortly at the Red Sea port of Assab, Ethiopian relief officials said at the weekend.

Stock at the port had been reduced by only a few thousand tons by the success of the 52-plane airlift, and by a big increase in quantities moved by road.

"If more food does not come quickly to Assab, the planes may be out of work," Mr Tafari Wassen, spokesman for the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, said in Addis Ababa yesterday.

Officials compiling the statistics said the 8,846 tons of grain at Assab last Thursday would have been reduced by yesterday to less than 5,000 tons, and could be exhausted by the weekend.

Plodges by West

Dr Tamrat Tetta, co-ordinator of the emergency operation and information centre, said food aid was still not reaching the 32,000 tons needed monthly.

More than 150,000 tons of new food aid had been pledged in the West in response to an appeal by the Addis government last month, but none had yet reached Ethiopia.

The first shipment of food was American wheat in January. The 57,632 tons of grain shown as held in storage centres last week was insufficient to last a month, and would be exhausted by mid-December.

Russians take over base in Vietnam

By HUGH DAVIES

AMID Chinese claims that Russia is stockpiling nuclear arms at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, American naval sources have confirmed that the Soviet Union has now almost taken over the base as a fleet operations centre.

On average 20 to 25 warships and submarines are reported to be anchored at the vast facility built by the United States during the Vietnam War.

According to officers aboard the 18,572-ton Blue Ridge, flagship of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, which has put into Haiphong, the latest count was 27 Soviet ships at anchor.

In addition at least one squadron of Badger and Bear bombers are thought to be deployed there. The aircraft are capable of carrying cruise missiles and nuclear warheads.

Pentagon worried

The build-up began in earnest a year ago. Now the Pentagon is becoming increasingly worried about the position, particularly the possible threat in its interests at Subic and Clark in the Philippines.

Apprehension about Soviet intentions in the area first surfaced a decade ago when Russia began building up its naval base at Petropavlovsk, on the Kamchatka peninsula, in addition to its huge facility at Vladivostok.

Chief of Staff, Gen. G. W. Brown, said Washington is currently negotiating with the Chinese to allow visits to Chinese ports by the U.S. Navy. He added: "Beyond that I could not really say whether there will be increased co-operation between the two navies."

Concern over Moscow's co-contraction on its Pacific naval role, the largest of its four fleets, was at the centre of discussions in Peking during August between Mr John Lehman, America's Naval Secretary, and Zhao Ziyang, Chinese Premier.

Zhang, who recently visited Washington for arms talks, they invited an American military delegation to discuss training and logistics with the People's Liberation Army. The team also called at the Chinese naval base of Wusung, near Shanghai.

This week Chinese television has screened film of a missile launching from a new Xia-class nuclear submarine.

The footage showed a stubby red missile being injected into a launch tube and a missile emerging from the water into the air.

This is thought to be the CCSS-N-4, which was displayed in Peking's Tiananmen Square during a military review on Oct. 1.

THREE HURT BY BASQUE BOMB

By Our Madrid Correspondent

Three people were injured when Basque terrorists bombed a bar in the centre of Bilbao early yesterday.

The Basque separatist movement also admitted responsibility yesterday for the bombing of a French-owned supermarket in Zaragoza two days ago as part of its campaign to stop the French government collaboration in the plan to destroy the Basque liberation movement.

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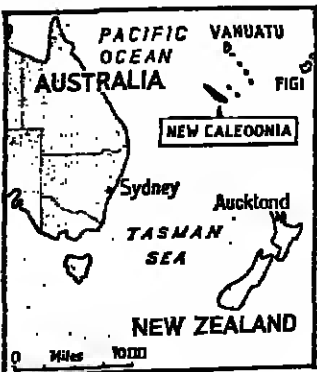


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Day of violence marks New Caledonia poll

By IAN WARD in Singapore

ANTI-FRENCH New Caledonian islanders, led by Libyan-trained militants, yesterday set town halls and voting booths ablaze, smashed ballot boxes, cut telephone lines and blocked roads in an attempt to sabotage the South Pacific territory's elections.



JEERS FOR HAWKE IN FARM TOWN

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

MR HAWKE, the Australian Prime Minister, was jeered yesterday when he campaigned in Bendemeer, New South Wales, the home of Mr Ian Sinclair, who is leader of the National party.

Mr Sinclair described Mr Hawke's speech as full of disappointment for the farmers. In the past 20 months, Labour's policies had caused a host of damaging cost increases for farmers, he said.

"I think it is very sad that the Labour party seems to have forgotten that it is necessary to maintain active aggressive policies to help our export industries."

Mr Hawke has promised a lot, and delivered very little," he said.

CAGNEY BETTER

By Our New York Staff

James Cagney, 85, the Hollywood actor, was discharged from a New York hospital after recovering from a bout of pulmonary oedema, or fluid in his lungs.

The Woolwich Mortgage Rate is down 1%

11.75%

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8.225%

Net rate payable on eligible loans with mortgage interest tax relief at 30%

We are pleased to advise Woolwich borrowers that from 1st December 1984, the interest charged on all existing mortgages with account numbers beginning 91, 94 and 96 will be reduced by 1%. For other existing mortgages the same reduction will apply from 1st January 1985.

The normal effect of this reduction will be to shorten the term of repayment mortgages. However, if your present monthly payment is based on at least a 12.75% interest rate, payments can be reduced on application to your local branch.

If you have an endowment mortgage, we will be writing to you with details of revised monthly payments towards the end of November 1984.

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The Missions to Seamen

St. Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4A 2RL



BULK OF FOREIGN CUTS FEARED BY DIPLOMATS

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

THE uncertainty in the Foreign Office caused by the cuts in its budget which Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, is expected to announce this week has caused a crisis in morale worse than that which followed the recriminations over the Falklands invasion.

Officials who have seen the Diplomatic Service steadily whittled away in recent years believe the burden of the cuts will fall on them.

"No politician is going to complain if the price of maintaining the aid budget is to eliminate consulates or diplomatic posts," said an official.

Another scoffed when it was suggested that cuts might be made in the BBC External Services and the British Council, to which the Foreign Office makes grants-in-aid.

There will be fewer recruits for the Foreign Service and longer hours to make up for the shortages by those in it. We are already a laughing-stock abroad because of our economies.

The officials have noted that while the aid lobby has been active in Parliament, no one has spoken up for the Diplomatic Service.

The BBC External Services can usually rely on the backing of the leading Fleet Street papers, while the British Council was given an additional £4 million in the spring following the personal intervention of Mr. Thatcher.

Inflation problem

The Foreign Office accounts for more than half the £600 million (not including aid) which Sir Geoffrey is expected to devote most of his pruned.

Its problems have been created by the fall of the pound against the dollar and inflation abroad which have sent costs soaring above the 3-9 per cent. increase allowed by the Chancellor.

No information has been available from the Foreign Office or its Ministers on how much

will have to be cut, but outside estimates put it at services and contributions worth about £80 million.

Inflation abroad has hit the British Council particularly hard, too. In the past five years its grants from the Government have been cut in real terms by 20 per cent.

This year inflation in the countries it serves averaged around 15 per cent, and if it is not to reduce its services still further, it will require £7 million more than on present showing it is likely to get.

Major reductions

A freeze of its current £78 million (including Mrs. Thatcher's supplementary £4 million) budget will mean major reductions in its services.

Among other things, it could lead to the loss of 180 scholarships, a 50 per cent. reduction in academic visits to both directions, and cuts of between one-third and a half in many other cultural and educational services.

The alternative would be to close many of its smaller offices abroad, sacking between 30 and 55 British staff and several hundred local staff. But a move of that sort would be practically impossible in the short time available.

HESELTINE'S TALKS

Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Saudi Defence Minister, had talks in Riyadh yesterday with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Heseltine, Foreign Secretary, said he was pleased to have the opportunity to state that no Unesco activity represented a threat to Press freedom. Its constitution committed it to promoting "the free flow of ideas by word and image" and the greater importance given to communication problems in recent years had not changed this position.

Current Western hostility towards Unesco had probably started because of Western apprehension about Unesco's "New World Information Order."

This was because the media had established three basic "truths": that it meant bringing the Press under government control, imposing an ethical code on journalists and licensing journalists so as to be able to control them.

"All the problems of information and news media were adopted by consensus. I defy anyone to point out anything tending to these 'truths' in any Unesco decision, programme or activity," he said.

On charges that Unesco has become "too politicised" under his management, Mr. M'bow was always been a political organisation, he says.

"As an organisation of governments it could hardly be anything else. Even when decisions and recommendations are made by experts who have no structures of a country, if they concern matters such as educational or scientific policy, they are, by their nature, political."

"Unesco has always been a meeting place, a forum for the expression of differing and even clashing points of view held by member states of various cul-

January pact on Gibraltar

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

THE full reopening of the border between Spain and Gibraltar now seems unlikely until the late spring or early summer of next year.

The agreement between Britain and Spain, which will precede the ending of Spanish restrictions, will probably be signed in January.

Earlier this month, Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said he thought the agreement could be completed when he met Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, in Brussels on Nov. 27.

A British concession has been an agreement to bring forward to the beginning of next year an E.E.C. rule which would enable Spanish self-employed and professional people to work in Gibraltar.

Sovereignty now

Spain is due to enter the Community on Jan. 1, 1986, but it seems that this may be delayed. Whatever the date, the border would have to be reopened before Spain's entry as Gibraltar is part of the Community.

The approaching Anglo-Spanish agreement marks a return to the principles of the April 1980 Lisbon agreement. This ran into political difficulties in Spain because it contained no cast-iron guarantee that Britain would negotiate a transfer of sovereignty.

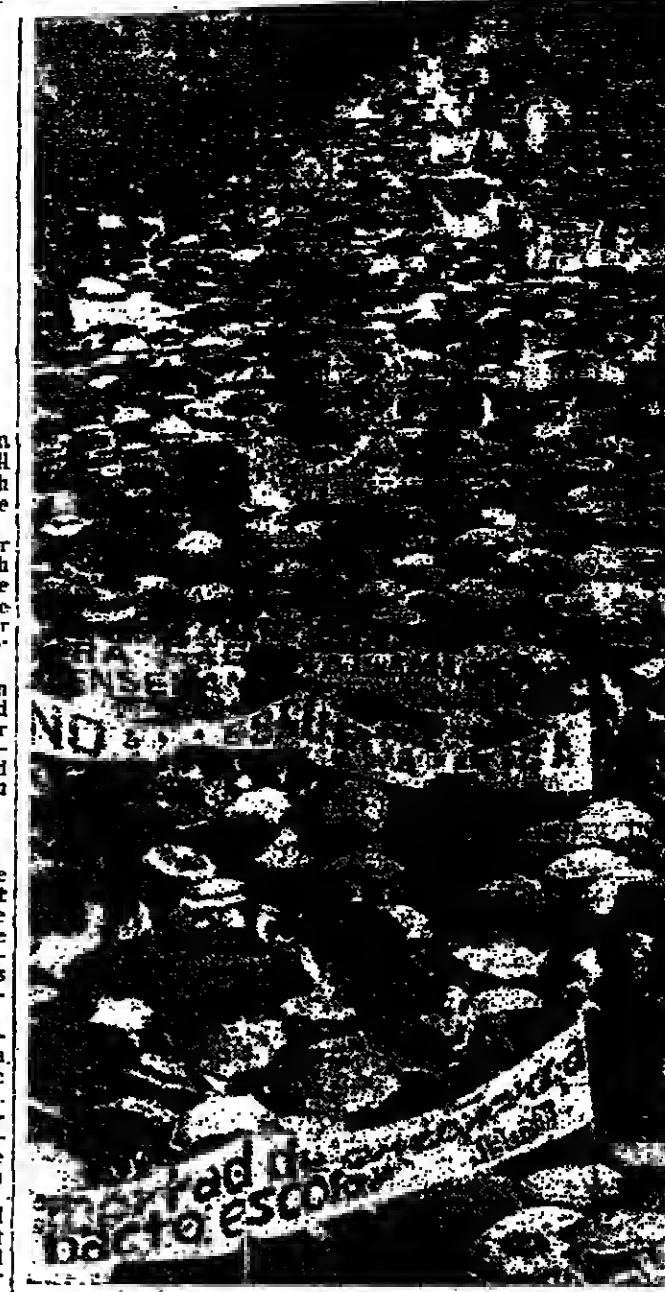
Implementation next year will open the way for talks, but Britain has always emphasised that there can be no transfer of sovereignty unless it is the wish of the Gibraltarians.

MID-AIR WAKING IN HANDCUFFS

By Our Correspondent in Auckland

Police were unable to wake a man they caught napping on the roof of an Auckland supermarket. So they handcuffed him and attached a rope to him to lower him to the ground.

The man, 21, who was alleged to have stolen jewellery valued at £3,000 was startled on waking to find himself suspended several yards above the ground.



Some of the half-million demonstrators who braved the rain in Madrid yesterday to protest against Spanish government legislation to reduce the influence of the Roman Catholic church in the country's private schools. A new education law allows parents, teachers and students to supervise the running of the schools, which are attended by three million of Spain's eight million children.

Britain's Unesco stance 'may be decisive'

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

BRITAIN'S attitude towards Unesco membership is "important, maybe decisive" for the influence it will have on America's position, according to Mr. Amadou M'bow, director-general of the world body, which promotes collaboration among member states in the fields of education, science, culture and communications.

"If Britain follows America and announces its withdrawal it will strengthen the hand of those in the United States who want to leave Unesco," he said.

In an interview with the DAILY TELEGRAPH at Unesco headquarters in Paris, Mr. M'bow gave his views on the present crisis in the organisation precipitated by America's probable withdrawal at the end of this year, and Britain's notification last April that unless there were major improvements in the role of the governing bodies, management, budget and programmes, the British Government would also have to reconsider membership.

Mr. M'bow emphasised that though the Western Press has indulged in some "unfounded abuse" no government had attacked him. Some had gone on record to express their esteem.

"Attacks from other sources have only rarely been directed at me personally but at Unesco as a whole... I can say that professional circles with close acquaintance with Unesco - such as the National Research Council of the United States Academy of Sciences, the British and United States National Commission, the American Library Association and a large number of other specialised and technical bodies in many countries have expressed support for Unesco's aims and the means it adopts to achieve them," he said.

Press not threatened

Mr. M'bow was glad to have the opportunity to state that no Unesco activity represented a threat to Press freedom. Its constitution committed it to promoting "the free flow of ideas by word and image" and the greater importance given to communication problems in recent years had not changed this position.

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"As an organisation of governments it could hardly be anything else. Even when decisions and recommendations are made by experts who have no structures of a country, if they concern matters such as educational or scientific policy, they are, by their nature, political."

"Unesco has always been a meeting place, a forum for the expression of differing and even clashing points of view held by member states of various cul-

tures, faiths and ideologies. This in itself is healthy... But points of view remain points of view and since they do not commit the organisation as a whole in its resolutions and programmes, they cannot be claimed to politicise it."

In sterner vein, this tough but sensitive Senegalese official, who has ruled Unesco firmly - some would say harshly - for the last ten years and has been re-elected by acclamation to continue in a post he has no intention of relinquishing, said: "It is easy to make allegations. But facts should be given. When it is said that Unesco has become highly politicised, it should be remembered that all its programmes and the budget have been adopted by all its members, including the U.S.A."

Mr. M'bow, who is clearly concerned at the prospect of a British withdrawal, or reform-linked suspension of membership, recalled Britain's "historical creative role" as host to the founding conference, decisive contributor to the constitution and provision of the first director-general, Sir Julian Huxley.

No decision yet

Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, also wrote to Sir Geoffrey in much the same vein, expressing the general Commonwealth desire that Britain should not leave Unesco.

Relations with Unesco are the concern of the Overseas Development Administration, part of the Foreign Office. A decision on whether to follow the American lead and leave Unesco has still to be taken. The Americans gave notice of their departure last year and it will take effect at the end of this year unless they rescind it.

As there is no sign that they will do so, it is almost certain that Unesco will have to operate next year without the 25 per cent. of its funds that came from the United States.

Hongkong's people fear to speak out

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

BRITAIN'S much-maligned Assessment Office established in Hongkong to test public opinion about China regarding sovereignty in 1987 has closed its doors with only 2,727 submissions from the colony's 5,000,000 inhabitants.

In a last minute rush 500 people registered their views on the deadline, but according to Mr. John Walden, a former Director of Hongkong's Assessment Office, most residents are too wary to speak out.

In an article for the Asian Wall Street Journal he said everybody knew that the Sino-British declaration initiated in Peking two months ago was not to be altered - and accepted or rejected.

He compared residents to prisoners serving a life sentence, who were aware of their fate and kept quiet. "No prisoner in his right mind would be so stupid as to complain about prison conditions in the presence of prison warders."

He added: "The vast majority of Hongkong's residents are not going to be persuaded to put their views in writing, even if they accept the prospect of a forced vote of the Government to the public pressure that their letters will eventually be destroyed."

Mr. Walden alleged that Britain wanted her businessmen to be deeply involved in China's modernisation process, but was determined to do nothing which would be allowed to disturb the pact.

British officials close to the negotiations deny this. One told me: "We got the best deal available, and I believe the Hongkong people are aware of this."

The Chinese emphasised from the outset that reunification was the first priority. They wanted Hongkong to be returned peacefully and commercially intact, of course.

"But their negotiators made it plain that if this was impossible they would use force and take it back as a smoking ruin."

Mr. P. who is to vote on the pact early next month, are expected to accept this view. Dorens have been given free trips to Hongkong for if any have been remotely critical of the negotiations.

Issue as Macao

Tentative arrangements are being made for Mrs. Thatcher to sign the document in Peking's Great Hall of the People a week before Christmas and then visit Hongkong to address the people.

Meanwhile, Wu Xueqian, Chinese Foreign Minister, has said in Lisbon that the issue of Macao, "left over from history," remains a problem. It would be "settled" through peaceful negotiations when conditions were "ripe."

Macao, the first prize of European colonialism along the South China coast, is not working to a deadline in history like Hongkong. After the 1974 revolution Portugal twice offered the territory back to Peking, but to no avail.

Wu is with President Li Xianmin's party in Lisbon during a state visit. Macao is almost certain to be discussed, as another member of the Chinese delegation is Li Zhongying, second deputy director of the State Council's Hongkong-Macao office.

Observers also note that another visitor to Lisbon at the moment is Rear Admiral Vasco de Almeida E Costa, Governor of Macao.

CATCALLS OVER DULL DRAW IN WORLD CHESS

By Our Chess Correspondent

Yet another dull draw in the world chess title match between Anatoly Karpov, world champion, and Gary Kasparov, challenger, in Moscow aroused even the patient but knowledgeable Russian audience to hoos and catcalls.

It is to be hoped that the demonstration will spur Karpov to make some effort to increase the 4-0 lead he has now held for six weeks to the six which would keep him his title.

34th game, Botvinnik's Opening (Karpov) (Black)

1 N-K3 2 P-B4 3 P-K3 4 P-Q4 5 P-N3 6 N-K3 7 N-N3 8 N-N3 9 P-KN 10 P-KN 11 B-G3 12 B-G3 13 N-Q4 14 B-G3 15 N-N3 16 B-N 17 P-Q4

Argentine Link

By Our Auckland Correspondent

Flights between New Zealand and Argentina are due to resume on Dec. 19.

Resumption of the Aerolineas Argentinas service, which ceased after New Zealand broke with Argentina during the Falklands conflict, has been delayed for technical and political reasons, but since officials say a fortnightly service between Buenos Aires and Auckland will definitely go ahead next month.

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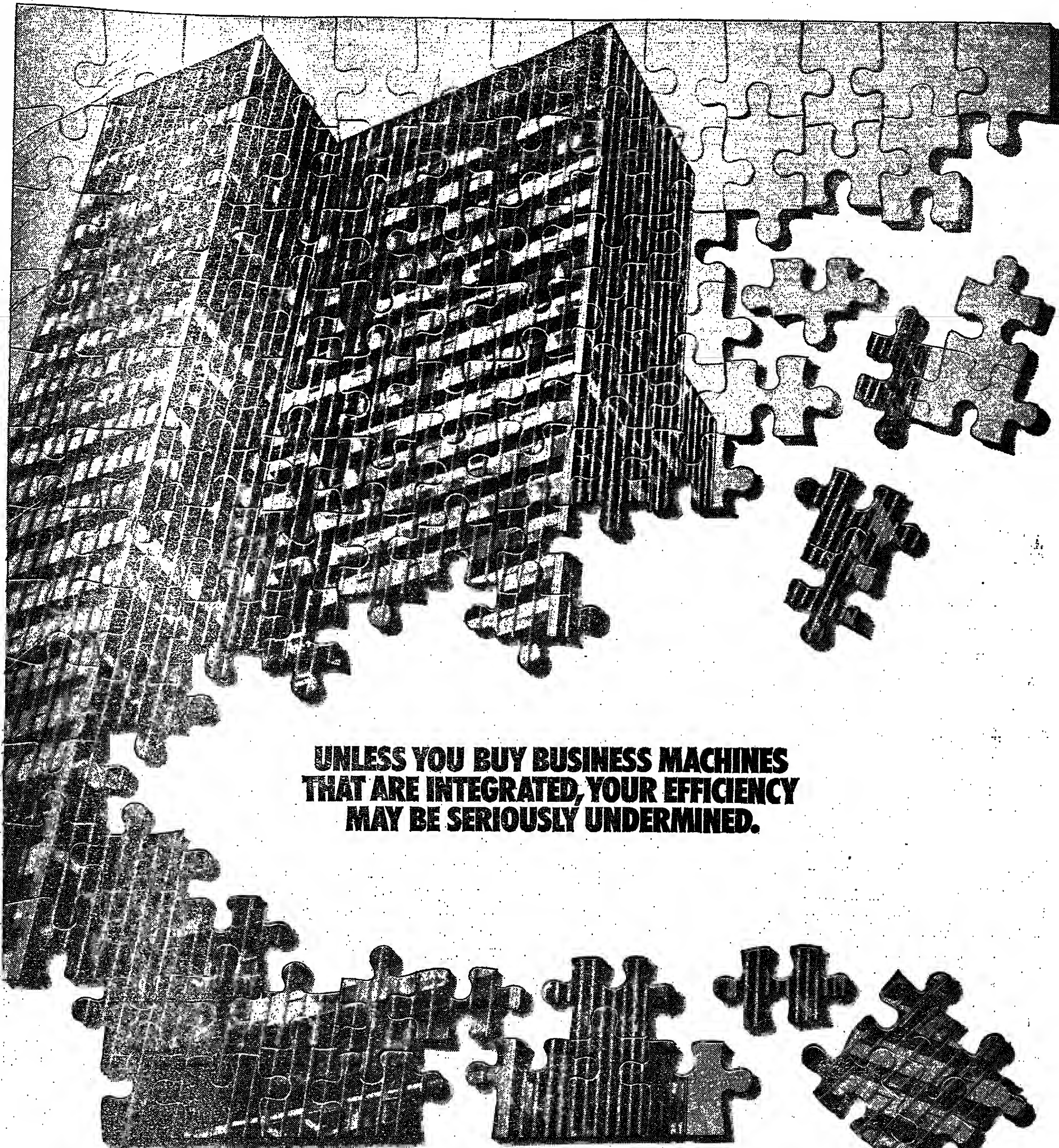
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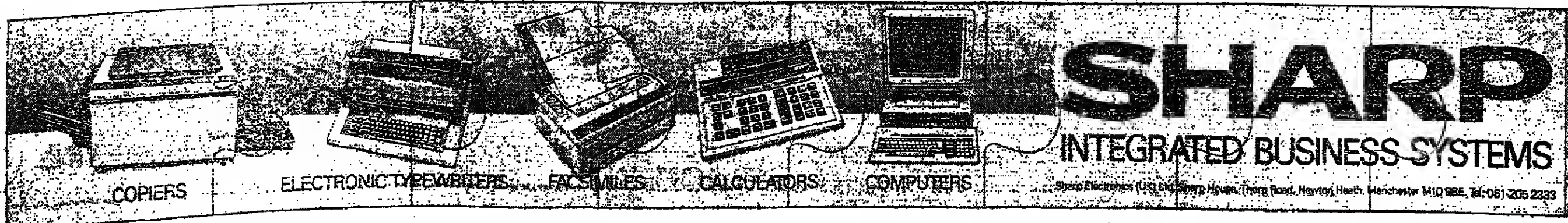
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HYSTER

LAWYERS TO TAKE OVER CONDUCT OF ALL PROSECUTIONS

By **TERENCE SHAW** Legal Correspondent

LAWYERS are to take over the conduct of all prosecutions from the police under the Government's Prosecution of Offenders Bill, to be introduced soon in the House of Lords.

The Bill, which closely follows the Government's White paper proposals in October last year, provides for the setting up of a centrally-funded national prosecution service which would be independent of the police and staffed by 2,500 civil servants, of whom 1,300 would be lawyers.

The new service will be headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions under the supervision of the Attorney-General, who will be answerable to Parliament for general prosecution policy.

It is intended that in most cases day-to-day prosecution decisions will be taken locally by Crown prosecutors and their staff who will be appointed in each of the 43 police authority areas of England and Wales.

Local decision

Commenting on the Bill, Mr Britton, Home Secretary, said the service would "combine maximum local decision taking with a nationwide consistency of approach and freedom from political interference."

The Government had "modernised and rationalised" police powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and it was now doing the same for the prosecution service. Both reforms followed recommendations of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

He believed the new proposals would "enhance public confidence in the criminal justice system" and be seen as

fairer, more consistent and more efficient as more weak prosecutions would be weeded out at an earlier stage.

During the Bill's passage through Parliament, the Government can expect wide support for the establishment of a prosecution service that is totally independent of the police and not based on the solicitor-client relationship that exists between the police and prosecuting solicitor departments.

Locally based

There could be some criticism, however, of its decision that the new system should be a coordinated national service employing more civil servants instead of a locally-based and accountable service as recommended by the Royal Commission.

But Ministers shared the widespread reservations about the commission's proposals that Crown prosecutors should be answerable to joint police and prosecution authorities and concluded that it would not be proper or efficient for local authorities to have any control over general prosecution policy.

Under the new service it is envisaged that many more serious cases would be dealt with locally instead of being referred to the DPP who has a staff of about 250 in London. Examples include straight-

forward murder cases, causing

death by reckless driving when the deceased is a near relative, robberies where firearms are used and injury caused and large scale robberies.

It is intended that greater consistency in prosecution policy could be achieved by the issue of guidelines by the director which would still leave local Crown prosecutors free to respond to local circumstances.

Staff for the new service will be drawn initially from the 1,650 existing 900 lawyers who now work for prosecuting solicitors departments that have been set up in 37 of the 43 police areas of England and Wales.

Government estimates are that a further 600 staff will be needed, including 400 lawyers to man the national service.

Additional cost

Although costs of the new system would be offset by some savings in briefing outside barristers and solicitors to take prosecutions and 600 police officers engaged in prosecution advocacy would be released for other duties, the total additional cost of the changes to the taxpayer is estimated at between £4 million and £4.9 million.

Under the new system the police would still be responsible for investigating crime, and in most cases for deciding to charge when they have enough evidence.

The case would then be passed to the prosecution service, which would decide whether the charge should be dropped or pursued, and how the case should then be conducted in court.

Private prosecutions will still be possible, subject to the continued power of the director to take over any case and to drop or pursue it.

Editorial Comment — PIS

SELECT COMMITTEES
Select Committees Meeting in Public this week:

Transport in Wales.

Tobacco. J. A. S. WELLS Affairs: Public Transport in Wales.

4.30. Education, Science and Arts. Science Budget: Science and Arts.

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Bill links pensions and inflation

By **DAVID FLETCHER**
Health Services Correspondent

EMployees who change jobs in mid-career will have the right to have frozen pensions inflation-proofed under the terms of a new Social Security Bill, which will have its Second Reading in the Commons next Monday.

Alternatively, they will have the right to have their pension independently valued so that they can take it with them to a new employer.

The new arrangements will overcome the disadvantage suffered by many mid-career job changers whose pensions have in the past been frozen in cash terms by the old employer and therefore of small value when eventually a pension retirement was reached.

The new Bill remedies this unfairness by requiring employers to inflate such deferred pensions by five per cent a year or in line with the rise in prices, whichever is the less.

Fairer treatment

Announcing the Bill, Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, said that it presented the largest single reform of occupational pension schemes for a decade.

"Early leavers from schemes will get fairer treatment and there will be automatic protection against inflation for pre-served pensions."

"In addition there will be new freedom to transfer pension rights. All other scheme members will get important new rights to information about their schemes."

The job leaver who does not want to leave his pension with the old employer will have the right to transfer it by buying into the new employer's pension scheme, by buying an annuity or by investing in a personal pension.

The new legislation will be effective from January 1986 and will not be applied retrospectively.

The Bill will remove the age limit of 26 under which occupational pension schemes need to be approved by the Social Security Commission.

The Bill also makes changes to the sick pay scheme by requiring employers to pay sick pay for up to 28 weeks of an employee's sickness rather than for the first eight weeks as at present.

This will enable the DHSS to save the jobs of an estimated 300-400 civil servants.

LEVY BALLOT DECISION BY ASTMS

By **JOHN WEEKS** Crime Staff

The annual conference of the white-collar union ASTMS in Blackpool voted yesterday to ask their executive to hold a ballot on continuation of the political levy to the Labour party. The union is one of the first to agree to the ballot, a legal requirement under the Trade Union Act 1984.

The delegates also voted to recall their 1982 decision to ignore "offensive anti-trade union legislation and to oppose the consequences by positive action." They regretted that Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary, and the policy did not mandate to oppose discussions with the Government on the proposals for internal union reforms in 1983.

Fewer senior officers in Met's overhaul

By **JOHN WEEKS** Crime Staff

THE 56 commanders in the Metropolitan Police will be told tomorrow how many of their number will be cut in plans to streamline the force.

It is expected that up to 18 appointments will go under the oars, already approved by Mr Britton, Home Secretary. The reduction will be achieved by natural wastage over two years.

The restructuring is likely to suggest the setting up of eight areas instead of the current four. Each will be headed by a Deputy Assistant Commissioner, responsible for allocating resources and the operational duties of manpower.

Each area will be a mixture of inner city, suburban and rural communities.

Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner, and his senior officers will continue to lay down general policies, which

will be tailored by Deputy Assistant Commissioners in the eight areas to meet their needs.

The effect will be of a shorter chain of command. At present commanders are forced to consult senior officers before taking many decisions.

Chief superintendents are to be briefed on Wednesday, and I understand there could also be a reduction eventually in their numbers. Either way, they and superintendents could be faced with delays in promotion to future, especially among CID officers.

Many senior detectives may now find it easier to obtain promotion by applying for transfer to the uniformed branch.

The plan is similar to one put forward seven years ago and nicknamed "Super 8". It was dropped by the then Commissioner, Sir David McNeice.

News Round-up

Too few advisers as number of debtors soars

The following is a summary of news items which did not appear on Saturday because southern editions of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH were not published.

By **JOHN PETTY** Commercial Correspondent

THE number of people in debt is increasing at an alarming rate, the National Consumer Council said at the inauguration of a National Money Association at Birmingham.

Many people are more than a year behind on mortgage payments, rent arrears are increasing sharply, county courts are handling 1,500,000 debt cases a year, and the number of people in arrears on loans from the Finance

Houses' Association has doubled in the past few years.

"There are not enough money advice specialists to cope with this increasing problem," said Mr John Ward, head of the development division of the Government-funded council.

One aim of the new association is to make sure there are more trained helpers on hand as well as providing a free advice service to everyone in need, he said.

People were "simply having to spend more than their wallets will stretch in order to survive."

The problem was highlighted in this year's report of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, which said: "Money problems of all types continue to dominate workload—whether about debt, welfare rights, redundancy pay, tax or pensions."

The association springs from an informal money advice group the council helped set up in 1981, with the first money advice centre being formed in Birmingham. There are now centres in several places, including South-west, Brighton and New Cross.

\$20m investment for 500 jobs

A £20 million microchip investment creating up to 500 jobs in Scotland's "Silicon Glen" has been announced by the Electronics Manufacturers' Association, which is based in California's "Silicon Valley".

The company says a factory to be built at Irvine New Town will be the first major facility for the contract assembly and test of integrated circuits to Britain.

Indy Electronics has become one of the biggest contract integrated circuit assemblers in the United States in less than four years. It hopes to start testing and assembling circuits at Irvine by August and plans to take up to 40 people to California for initial training.

Most of the workers will be recruited direct from schools or colleges and trained by the company.

The investment is the latest in a lengthening series of microchip ventures which has made Scotland the biggest production centre in Europe.

Court order to print union

London newspaper wholesalers secured a High Court injunction against the print union Sogat 62 ordering it to lift an instruction to warehousemen not to handle copies of this week's TV Times, which includes a cookery supplement.

The union's London Central Branch has been refusing for the past two weeks to handle magazines which have inserts larger than 24 pages or what are termed "non-paper appliances" attached to them, until employers concede a claim for increased holiday entitlements.

Guinness buys health spas

The Guinness brewery company has acquired the Champneys health spas where orange juice is an essential part of weight and fitness treatments.

The acquisition, which includes the Champneys health spas at Tring, Herts, and Slobo Castle in the Scottish border region, was for about £3 million and will be part of a new health group established by Guinness.

Legal aid advice

Detailed guidance to magistrates courts on how they should interpret existing criteria for granting of legal aid in criminal cases has been issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Wide disparities between courts over the grant of legal aid were confirmed by a survey

conducted by his department in 59 magistrates courts in Eastland and Wales during December 1982, in which the grant or refusal of legal aid to about 5,000 cases was studied.

The guidance makes it clear that when courts are considering whether a defendant should be granted legal aid because he faces a real risk of imprisonment, the likelihood of his conviction is not a factor they should take into account.

BBC check on Sikh interviews

All BBC newsmen have been instructed that interviews with Sikh extremists should be submitted to Assistant Director-General, Mr Alan Protheroe, for approval.

This follows an earlier move to ensure that interviews with Dr Singh Chohan, leader of a Sikh extremist group, were not in future used without approval.

Mr Alasdair Milne, Director-General of the BBC, wrote to the Indian High Commissioner in London last week expressing his regret over the use of an interview with Dr Chohan following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi.

Need for 46,000 extra teachers

Instead of cutting back teacher numbers as the school population declines, Britain will need 46,000 extra staff to maintain existing pupil-teacher ratios by 1995, according to the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers.

New policies designed to improve standards in primary schools will need an extra 20,000 teachers and a further 11,500 secondary school teachers will be needed to cope with new examinations, pupil numbers and the demands of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) for the 14-18s.

Shop hours report

The report of the Government inquiry into the laws governing shopping hours and Sunday opening are to be published this week, said Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office.

Mr Mellor told Mr Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley, in a written Commons answer that Mr Britton, Home Secretary, would be studying the report and reactions to it before proposing any change in the law.

'Ripper' claim

The mother of the "Yorkshire Ripper's" last victim is suing Mr Colin Sampson, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, for negligence. Saturday was the fourth anniversary of the death of Jacqueline Hill, 20.

Her mother, Mrs Doreen Hill, 50, a widow from Ormesley, Cleveland, said through her solicitor, Mr Anelay Hart, that she was doing this to ensure that police take greater care in future and that thereby lives are saved.

GLC dilemma

GLC staff face a dilemma on whether to co-operate with the Government over the abolition of the Council.

While Mr Kenneth Livingstone, GLC Labour leader, has threatened them with dismissal if they give information, the Act paving the way for abolition puts a duty upon staff to do so.

They cannot escape it by saying that the release of information has not been sanctioned by the councillors.

Paintings for export

Two Old Master drawings worth more than £6 million, from the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth collection are to be given export licences.

IN JANUARY, A REVOLUTION WILL OCCUR IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS.

It's called 'Cellnet'.
Backed by both British Telecom and Securicon, it will allow a phone in your car, or even in your pocket, to work just like the phone on your desk.
Your conversations will be clear, and

you won't have to wait for a line.
You won't have to wait until January either.
'Cellphones' can be ordered now.
Just phone 200 0200 or cut out the coupon.

Post to: Admail 200, London NW9 5AL.
Please send me a list of Cellnet Accredited Retailers.

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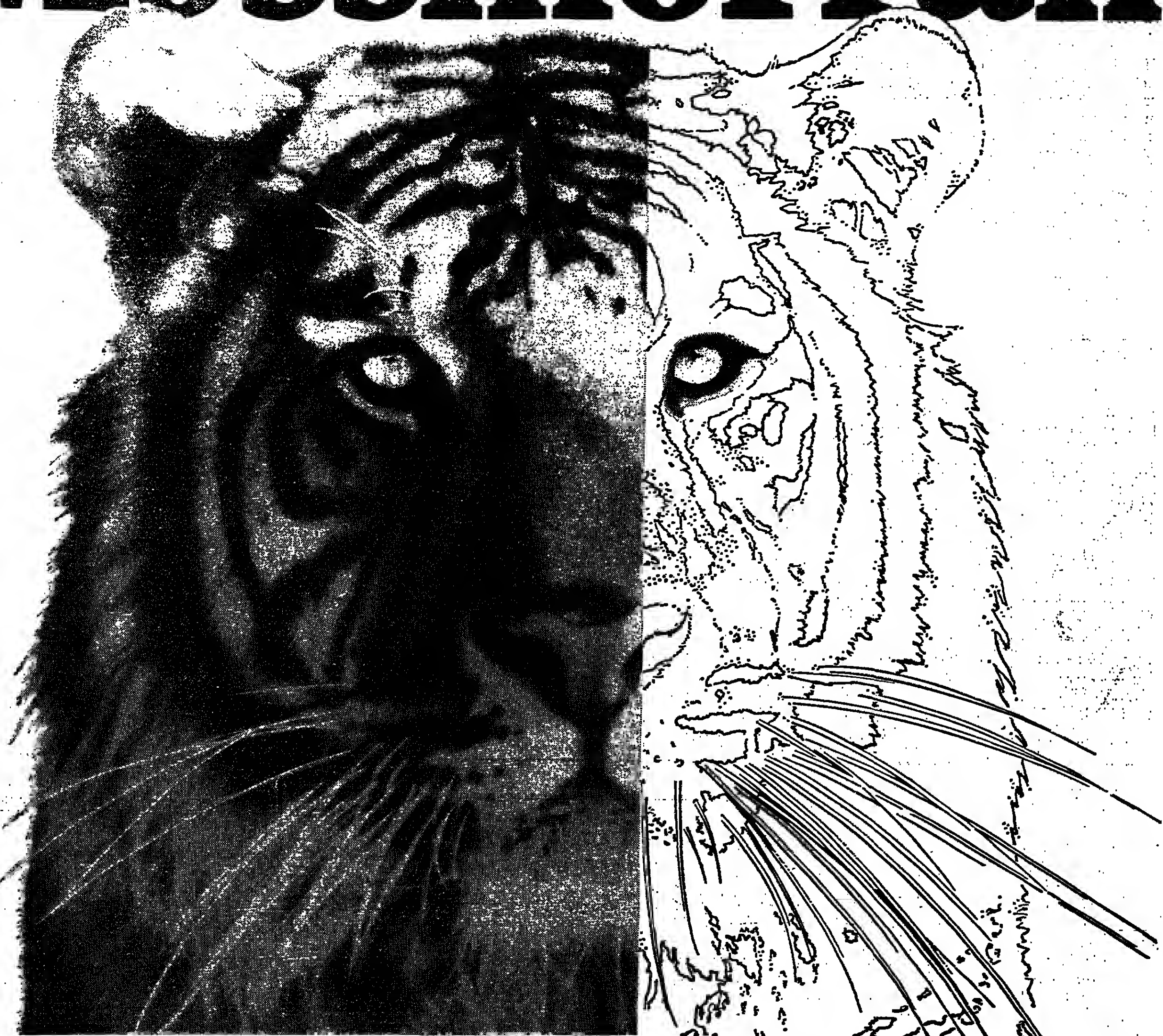


Cellnet

Nobody takes the phone further.

CELLNET WILL OPEN IN JANUARY AND COVER MOST MAJOR TOWNS AND CITIES IN THE UK BY END 1985

Mossmorran



How Esso intend completing the picture

The new Esso-Shell gas liquids fractionation plant at Mossmorran in Fife is open for business. It took over £500 million and 5 years of ingenuity and skill to build.

Mossmorran is only one part of a £1,700 million development programme which started 13 years ago with the discovery of the Brent oil and gas field.

Natural gas and its associated liquids are carried 278 miles by undersea pipeline from Brent and other fields in the North Sea to St. Fergus in Scotland.

There the natural gas is separated from the liquids, piped into the national gas grid, and is now supplying 10% of Britain's gas for industry and the home.

The natural gas liquids then travel a further 138 miles by underground pipeline to Mossmorran. Here they are separated into their commercial components: propane, butane, natural gasoline and ethane.

Esso are now completing the picture by building a £400 million ethane cracker, linked to the Mossmorran complex. This cracker will be the most technologically advanced in Europe, and will produce ethylene, the basic raw material for plastics.

This investment in all our futures is just one demonstration of Esso's continuing confidence and commitment to Britain.

But the work doesn't finish here. Esso are currently spending at the rate of £2,000 per minute, over 85% of it going to British firms.

Between now and 1990 we expect to invest another £4,500,000,000 to meet Britain's energy needs—a massive commitment which offers opportunities for the development of new technologies, the building of new industries, and the creation of new jobs.

Esso look forward with confidence to providing supplies of oil and gas for Britain well into the 21st century.



FARMER'S DIARY

Well met by moonlight

THE farmer who enjoys meetings can fill his diary at this time of year. The end of autumn drilling and fields too wet to carry a tractor have brought an end to arable work; the cattle, not yet on full winter rations, do not take long to feed; and the evenings are too long and dark for anyone to be out much after tea time.

So National Farmers' Union (NFU) meetings, clubs and specialist societies compete for his spare time. In Devon, recently, the landlord of The Bear was hard pressed to separate the Wiltshire Grassland Society from the local Friesian Breeders' group. Similar scenes are played out nightly around the country as chilly "function rooms" are readied for the farmers as committee men prize members from the bar.

The tradition goes back nearly 200 years. Founded in January 1793, the Canterbury Farmers' Club claims to be one of the oldest such organisations in the country.

The number of local societies increased sharply just after the Second World War when Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) advisers encouraged their formation as a means of spreading new techniques and methods. Aston Cantlow, near Stratford-upon-Avon, claims to have been the home of the first of these 41 years ago.

Through the Young Farmers' Clubs, meetings addicts can start to indulge their taste for discussion and debate at a tender age.

What drives a farmer from his fireside on a chilly evening and sends him down country roads and scuttling across a rain-puddled car park to an uncomfortable seat in a featureless hall? Is it the thought of

JAMES GLADSTONE on how a farmer can fill his hours during the long winter evenings

14 hours alone with his wife? No, many of the most successful cloths now encourage wives to attend.

Perhaps it is the thought that an evening at home will present a choice between another spasm of soap operas and taking the unpaid hills from behind the clock on the mantelpiece and doing the books.

The programme secretaries do their best to make the meetings attractive. Sometimes the speaker is in business, such as a banker on how to ensure your children can continue to run the farm after your death. At other times the meeting is pleasure, such as a theatre trip, skittles or a dance.

I believe it is the dread of paperwork that drives many people out of the house. Wet days and long evenings with no meetings remove the last excuses for not getting on with it. I know of no farmer who enjoys the ever-increasing office side of the job, yet few are prepared to let anyone else sign the cheques even if a secretary does the books and answers letters.

I like to do my own books, but begrudge the time it takes, so one of the invitations to meetings I was glad to accept was for a one-day computer seminar.

We already have a computer on the trout farm, but it is operated by my partner and I understand nothing about it except that it must be moved. It told us that we would make more money if we stopped keeping the fish until they were ready for the table and started selling them as fry to other

farmers. We obeyed. It seems to have been sound advice.

I would like to know how to ask a similar question about other farm activities—but more than that, I would like it to analyse expenditure, record receipts, sort out the VAT, write out the cheques and put the water in the whisky.

When you have to keep track of the weights of several hundred thousand fish, the amount of food they eat and how fast they are growing, a computer is a near-essential tool.

Similarly, for those farmers who formulate their own feeds—for pigs for instance—from commodities whose prices are changing daily, then a computer will do the sums and tell them the cost per megajoule, or whatever it is they need, with unrivalled ease.

Even a large dairy herd, where you cannot know too much about each individual cow, her milk yield, calving date, breeding and rations, can use a computer. I am less sure that one is required for field recording although the computer companies would like to convince us that it is. The companies try to justify the cost of their wares by putting a value on the time they will save you, but that does not work for farmers whose office work is generally done in the evenings, so time saved at the books will only be spent in front of "Dynasty" or at more meetings. It is hard to value time passed at meetings; and it cannot be long before beef groups, sheep societies, quality cereal growers and the rest have to compete with the local computer users' club for space in the farmer's engagement book.

NOTEBOOK

Evening out, under arms

AND NOW" said the briefing officer. "here are the players for tonight." Players? A game? Here behind the tall fences of a tightly-guarded military camp, in a roomful of soldiers with blackened faces nursing their weapons?

But there is a big element of same-playing in the Northern Ireland security campaign. You know often enough who is planning to kill you but you have to wait until he proves it—prove in the tedious sense of court-room proof. And it is a war, although fought with real bullets, that happens in a place where most people, most of the time, are living happily at peace.

The faces of the "players for tonight" are flashed up on the screen, with names, usually addresses and car numbers too, and sometimes little anecdotes. One was involved in murder X and Y. Another needs no introduction—"we're meeting him all the time."

This was the briefing for a night patrol to be carried out by the Ulster Defence Regiment. The remarkable and very courageous character of this newest (and largest) regiment of the British Army is still not fully grasped on this side of the water and indeed is widely misinterpreted in Ulster too.

Briefings like this take place every evening throughout the year around the province. Most of these part-time soldiers have done a year's work already and now have come to their barracks to put on uniform and go off on patrol into the small hours of the morning.

The background of this particular UDR operation went back a few days. Children collecting wood for bonfire night had stumbled on an Armalite rifle, recently hidden, loaded and with an extra magazine taped to it. With it was a hood.

The hiding place was near what was clearly a classic spot for an ambush, a wood overlooking the entrance, the only entrance or exit, of a little housing estate. And lining in the estate was an obvious potential IRA target, himself a UDR man.

In the present state of the terrorist campaign, the UDR is, notoriously, in the front line. To date, nearly 450 UDR volunteers have been murdered, mostly off duty. They represent in the unfortunate jargon of the trade, one of the "soft targets" now favoured by the IRA.

In any event, it was felt, there was an urgent threat to the UDR man in this housing estate. The authorities had arranged to find him a new house. Colleagues in his company of 3 In UDR were at this moment actually helping to paint up the new house. The patrol composed of other colleagues was planned in case the terrorists decided to have another go before he left.

Be seen, the platoon commander told the patrol, but



A vital part of the battle against terrorism in Northern Ireland is fought by part-time soldiers, under fire in more senses than one.

don't present a target. If a crowd should form, withdraw. One of the politically imposed rules on the use of the regiment is that it is not used for crowd control. Another rule, to allay fears of private enterprise against terrorists, is that they don't take part in covert operations in plain clothes.

We were dropped off in empty countryside under an autumn moon and set off towards the housing estate on the edge of the little town—a dozen of us, including two girls, the famous "Greenfinches". Another of the UDR rules is that Greenfinches go unarmed.

"A very bad area this," one of the girls murmured as we got near the houses. Just up the road not so long ago, gunmen took over a house and shot a policeman who was on points duty dealing with traffic going to an agricultural show.

If there should be any shooting this time, the girls had every reason to be interested. Their job was to walk slowly, with lighted torch, among the parked cars, writing down registration numbers, to be fed later into the computer. The men crouched by walls and hedges, giving all-round cover.

A car drove up. A woman emerged with a clutch of children, dropped them at their home and drove off. The contrast between the sheer ordinariness, the normality of the place and the military firepower being deployed seemed almost ludicrous. Then one remembered the Armalite and looked at the wood across the road.

What can it be like to live on a housing estate, to bring up children, when armed men are liable to arrive and lurk by your dustbin? I think part of my answer to that question would be that, if it had to be, I should prefer soldiers with rifles to policemen with pistols. But I would find it difficult to spell out why.

The young men and women of this patrol, the eldest were in their mid-20s, certainly seemed as unaggressive, if that is the right word, as the extraordinary circumstances of Northern Ireland allow. Tonight they also seemed, very

properly and to the right degree, apprehensive. The kind of macho posture one has seen among, say, some Territorials in England, does not really fit this scene.

Now, sinister characters have infiltrated the UDR. And in the long folklore memory of Ireland much is made of the some very sinister characters in the old "B" Specials, abolished when the UDR came into existence. Nor has the UDR image been helped by the fact that six members await trial in connection with the deaths of two Catholics.

Precautions against unsuitable recruits are elaborate. "Vetting" is done by an independent organisation. Shouts from Loyalist zealots that some of their best men are rejected indicate that the authorities have probably got it about right.

We did another circuit of the silent estate, all-round cover all the time. An evening wasted? How do you ever judge whether a deterrent has deterred. Last Christmas, when shoppers in central Belfast went about the streets safely (in contrast to shoppers in Knightsbridge) part of the reason may well have been the patrolling carried out by the UDR along with the police.

We moved on to the main road to set up a road block. This was not entirely routine. "There had been intelligence reports that weapons might be moving around the district. One mark of the success of the security forces is that the terrorists are short of arms and have to share them out.

Back to the battalion headquarters, to the operations room. More Greenfinches moving flags on map and operating the radio links. "We sometimes play little games," says the operations officer. "We assume the opposition are listening in to our nets."

In the corner was the computer terminal. Car numbers are fed in as they come over the radio from the road blocks and the computer spews out an instant reaction from its memory, usually zero.

Then it comes out with a code that means something more. The road block is told to question the car's passengers.

WINE

English lesson

By DENIS MORRIS

IN "The Grape Press," Ian Paget, of the successful Chisdown Vineyard at Chichester, describes how visitors, when asked if they have ever before tasted English wines, often answer: "Yes—and we poured the rest down the sink."

Interrogation, he says, shows "British" and usually a particular, well-advertised one at that.

"British" wines are not English wines nor vice versa. English wines are made from grapes grown in England (or Wales), are subject to various quality controls and are clean, fruity and usually dry.

Until recently English wines have been relatively expensive, largely because over the years Governments have been notably unhelpful to this fledgling industry which already contributes £3 million annually in excise duty and V.A.T.

At the bottom end of the scale lurk "British" wines which come from foreign concentrates or grape-must imported from countries where a profusion of low quality wine is grown. The alcoholic liquid is sold for as much as the surveyor dare ask.

The increasingly high standard achieved by English wines is reflected in the comparative ease with which one can now buy them. That old-fashioned virtue, patriotism, could, he well served this Christmas if white wine drinkers (it have yet to enjoy a bottle of English red) buy a bottle or two of their own English or Welsh native wine.

Incidentally, Ian Paget told me on the last day of his harvesting that the quality of his own and other English vineyards is excellent.

A comprehensive tasting of 78 claret given by Justerini and Brooks of St James's Street, London, reaffirmed their present quality and also served to introduce the firm's relatively inexpensive (£3-25) house claret. This is unusual in being allowed 18-24 months bottle age.

IN the opinion of Berry Bros. and Rudd, also of St James's Street, 77 clarets, which they now consider of excellent value, never had much of a chance as they were quickly overshadowed by the more illustrious 78s. There are still many 77s about and this firm's range is a good one starting with a deep coloured typical Bordeaux superior Chateau La Tonnelle (£3-90).

TAYLORS are offering an unusual 10-year-old tawny port. This, they suggest, makes either an ideal aperitif served chilled (shades of not quite three-star French banquets) or as a digestif after heavy Christmas puddings.

It certainly makes a rare and heartening aperitif for a cold day, good tack for the car park at Twickenham, or the Cheltenham Festival meeting. Recommended retail price £8-55 from top people's wine merchants Harrods or Fortnum's.

Also Unwins, Oddbins, Morris's Wine Stores (Midlands), Heward Hughes (Leicester), Weavers (Nottingham), Bow Street Wine Vaults and Andre Simon (London), and Martinez of Ilkley, Yorkshire, that county of enthusiastic and knowledgeable port drinkers.

MORRISON
HALCROW

This is an advertisement for anyone who's never won on Premium Bonds.

From November there are 50,000 more winners a month. And the prize fund is increased to over £10 million a month.

Bishops' reminders to our politicians and economists that they do not seem to have made a very good job of things would carry more weight if the Church had been more successful in instilling into the population at large Christian virtues, without which just social and economic provisions are so much harder to achieve. The Bishop of Durham, the Archbishop of Canterbury and others would also do well to reflect that it is the meek whom the Gospels bless, not the naive.



Could we not all get down to discussing what ought to be done to alleviate human misery now without creating more in the future, and could we not all, in a spirit of charity, pay some sort of courtesy to the motives of those who disagree with us?

The former Prime Minister, who represented Stockton-on-Tees from 1924 to 1929 and again between 1951 and '45, was there to attend a dinner given belatedly to celebrate his 90th birthday, his earldom and the 60th

Hill, called up at short notice to take the role of Ben—played in the film of the show by Lee Marvin—planned his afternoon with some care. He was at the Edgar Street ground to greet the visiting chairman and team, crossed to the Nell Gwynne theatre to make up and go on stage,

Morning after...
THE Awliscombe Inn in Honitoo is advertising in PULMAN'S WEEKLY NEWS for a "Girl Friday." It says she is wanted for Saturday lunchtimes.

Eventually, all links between trade unions and any political party should be made illegal, so that unions keep right out of politics and stick to their only legitimate task of seeking to protect

FRANCIS NOEL BAKER

Is this the face of an alien civilisation that invaded Mars?

By ADRIAN BERRY Science Correspondent

PHOTOGRAPHIC evidence of what may be the relics of a vanished civilisation on Mars is to be presented next month by a team of American scientists to President Reagan's science adviser.

This evidence includes a mile-wide rock apparently carved in the perfect semblance of a human-type face and several pyramids arranged symmetrically in what appear to be the remains of a city.

All the objects are located in the Cydonia region of Mars. The "face" is at 41 deg. N. and 9 W.

The American scientists hope to persuade the Government of the desirability of sending a joint American-Soviet mission to the planet to investigate the evidence before the Russians decide to do it alone.

Viking's photographs

The research has been expanded to include the Congressional Research Service in Washington and a group of many different fields of expertise from the University of California.

The photographs were taken in 1976 by the orbiting American Viking spacecraft, but because the craft took many thousands of pictures, until recently nobody took the trouble to examine them in detail.

The space community is strongly divided over whether the objects are artificial or are merely freak creations of nature.

The NASA photographs, taken from approximately 900 miles, are freely available and have been discussed in papers by two scientific groups, Mars Research of Glenn Dale, Maryland, and the Independent Mars Investigation Team, of Oakland, California.

Processing of the picture of the "face" by the Maryland group has revealed details of its left side which in the two photographs were hidden by shadow. These show a left eye socket, a pupil, an eyeball, and a continuation of "hair" around the forehead of the face.

Warm, wet planet

In the opinion of Mr Richard Hoagland, organiser of the California team, these discoveries "effectively eliminate" the idea that the face is a "trick of lighting" and points to it being the result of artificial construction.

Mr Hoagland said that if this was the case, the objects would have been constructed at least

half a million years ago, when according to current theories about the history of Mars, it had a warm, wet period.

He added that the geology of the Cydonia region suggested that the objects were on the shore of an ancient lake. The face, over which the Sun would have risen directly, would have formed an island with the pyramids on the shore beside it.

But the supposition is that if the objects really are the work of alien beings, the creatures could not have been of a species native to Mars.

All evidence from visiting spacecraft and Earth-based telescopes suggest that Mars, unlike Earth, never had a sufficiently thick atmosphere, or warmth, for a long enough period to support the evolution of an intelligent race.

The theory is that any beings who walked on its surface long ago and who left the supposed artifacts were travellers from another solar system.

Russian moves

They would then have perished on Mars or departed as they came.

There is growing evidence that the Russian Government not only believes the objects may be artificial, but is planning new missions to examine them more closely, perhaps involving robot descents to the surface.

According to Mr Reginald Turnhill, editor of the new JANE'S SPACEFLIGHT DIRECTORY, the Russians are planning to return to Mars in 1986 after a gap of 15 years.

He said: "They hope to bring a Martian orbiter within a few thousand metres of Phobos, one of the two tiny Martian moons, and then fly in formation with this Martian satellite to obtain high resolution photographic and other data."

Mr Turnhill, a highly-respected writer on space technology, declined to reveal his sources of information on Soviet space plans, which are seldom officially announced in advance.

Evidence that the Russians

are planning, in addition, a manned mission to fly in orbit around Mars have been revealed recently by Dr Harrison Schmitt, a former Apollo astronaut who has walked on the Moon and served a term in the Senate.

Dr Schmitt pointed to the existence of a huge launching rocket, nearly as big as the old American Moon rockets, seen recently at the Baikonur cosmodrome during a flight last year of the American space shuttle.

He suggested that to mark the 75th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1982, the Russians would like to have a "space spectacle" that would have a stunning prestige effect on world opinion.

A still more ominous possibility is that the aliens, if they existed, may have left something potentially deadly on the surface of Mars.

'Library' legacy

If they created the "face" to attract attention, they might also have left a "library," a store of technological information such as would have been amassed by a star-faring civilisation.

This, of necessity, would be of so advanced a character that it would compare with a description of our own civilisation as seen through the eyes of people of the Stone Age.

The fear is that, if the Russians were to get hold of this information before the West, they might be able to use it to conquer the solar system and dominate their rivals on Earth.

"Unusual Martian Surface Features," by Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, Mars Research, P.O. Box 284, Glen Dale, Maryland 20769.

"Preliminary Report of the Independent Mars Investigation Team: New Evidence of Prior Habitation," by Richard C. Hoagland, 331 62nd Street, Oakland, California, 94618.

BOOK PRIZE FOR AUTHORESS, 74

By Our New York Staff
Harriet Doerr, 74, who began writing eight years ago to fill the void in her life left by her husband's death, has won an American National Book Award for her first work of fiction, "Stones for Ibarra."

She returned to college in 1976 and "took a writing course to see how I'd do," she said. Her book is about a wife's ordeal in dealing with death, and what she learns from the inhabitants of a Mexican town.

BIG BOND WINNERS

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes were: £100,000 232W 356676 (Bournemouth); £50,000 21VK 657548 (Cornwall); £25,000 10PB 457080 (Cambridgeshire).



The mile-wide "face" on Mars. Imaging techniques have revealed details of the left side of the face that are hidden in this picture—an eyeball, an eye socket, a pupil, and a continuation of "hair" around the forehead.

Shuttle triumph revives Nasa's hope of space station

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

SPACE officials are hoping that the satellite rescue mission triumphantly accomplished by the Shuttle Discovery last week will reinforce their efforts to obtain the go-ahead for a permanent station in space.

Existing plans for a space base costing at least \$8 billion (£6.5 billion) have come under heavy fire, with critics complaining that the project can't be justified on scientific, economic or military grounds.

Although President Reagan has expressed support for the idea, a Congressional report out last week said there was "no compelling objective case" for accepting either the costs of or the public need for a space station.

The National Aeronautics

and Space Administration argues that the construction of a major space platform to house a wide range of astronaut activities is essential to carry America's space programme towards the 21st Century.

But the Congressional study concluded that Nasa had failed to determine just what the space station might be used for, and of what benefit it would be to the public.

Outside concern

"How can the U.S. people and Government justify, today, continuing to make such truly great and continuing public expenditure, on space-related matters perceived by most of our general public as lying well outside the mainstream of their personal interests and concerns?" said the report from the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

The study suggested that the

main reason Nasa is pursuing the project so ardently is to keep its battalions of engineers and scientists in work now that the Shuttle programme is running smoothly.

"Because the nation does not have clearly-formulated long-range goals and objectives for its civilian space activities, proceeding to realise the present Nasa space station concept is not likely to result in the facility most appropriate for advancing U.S. interests into the second quarter-century of the space age," the study said.

But Nasa remains convinced that a space station is the next logical step in the American space programme. The exploits of Discovery's crew before they returned to Cape Canaveral on Saturday did this dream no harm.

Nasa's most valuable ally in the space station project is President Reagan, who has supported it in the past. But critics note that he is committed to reducing the budget deficit, and he may be forced to decline huge funds for the space station programme.

Calling Earth in AD 12,000

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

WAYS of communicating warnings to inhabitants of the Earth 10,000 years from now about the radiation dangers from nuclear waste dumps which will remain toxic for 300 generations, are being considered by the United States.

Permanent burial grounds for fuel cells and obsolete weapons are to be chosen in six states by the Department of Energy under the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

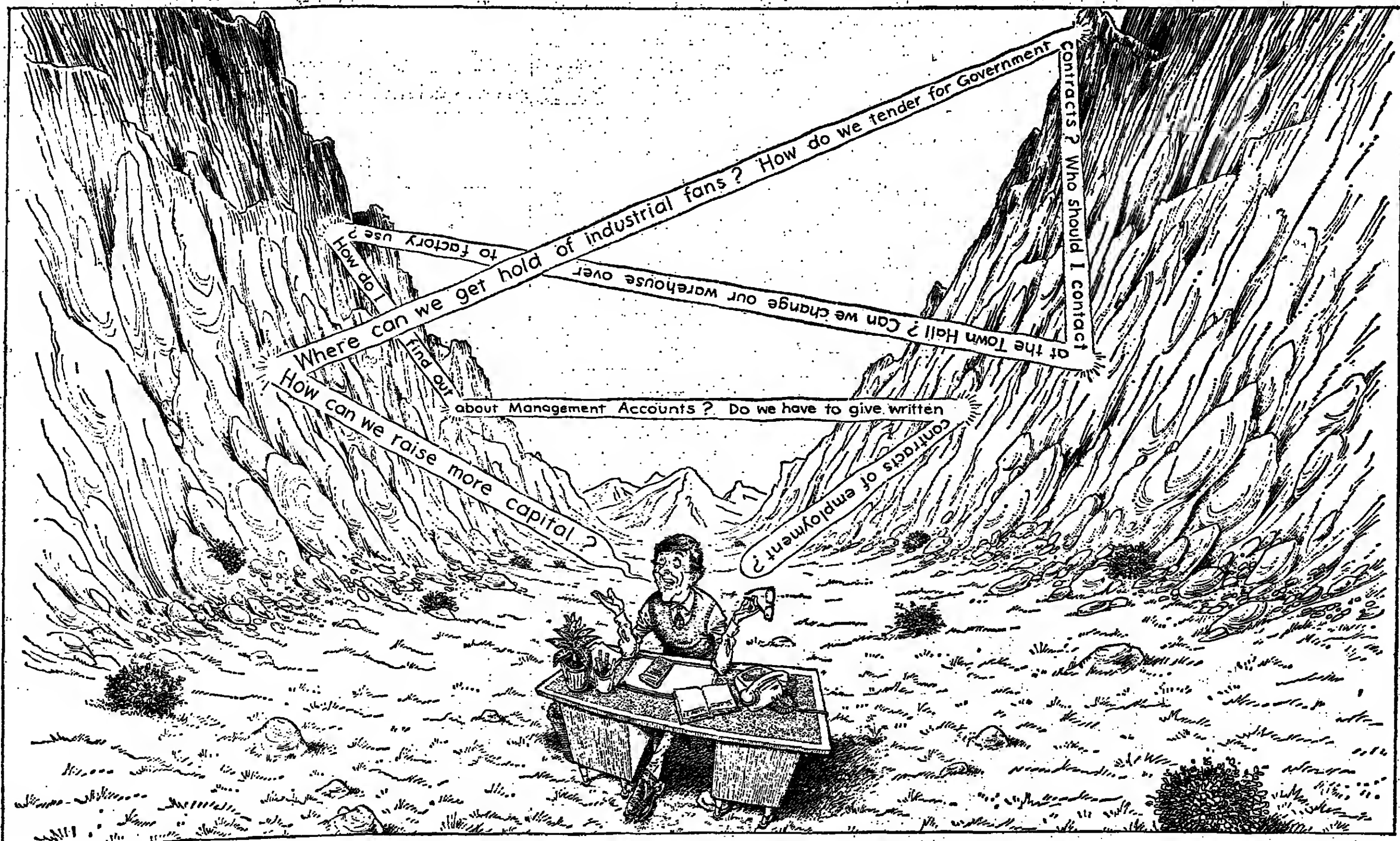
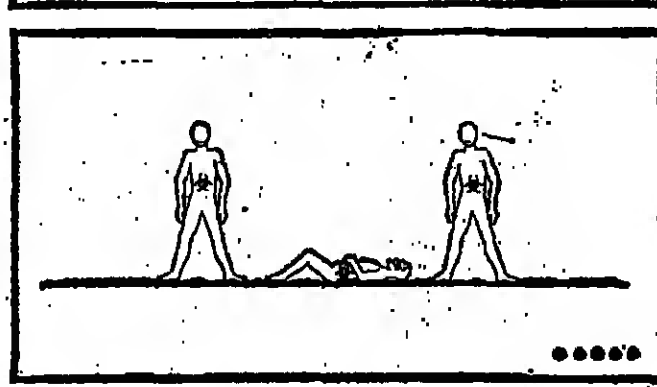
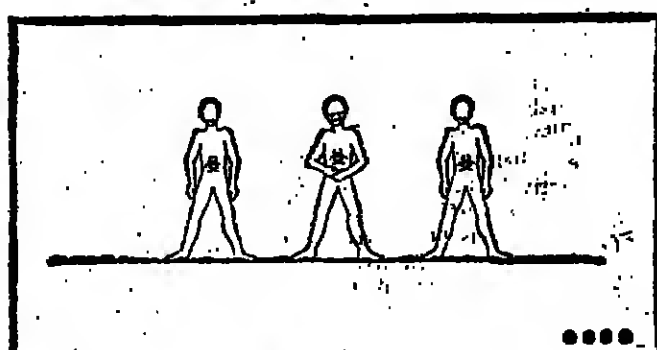
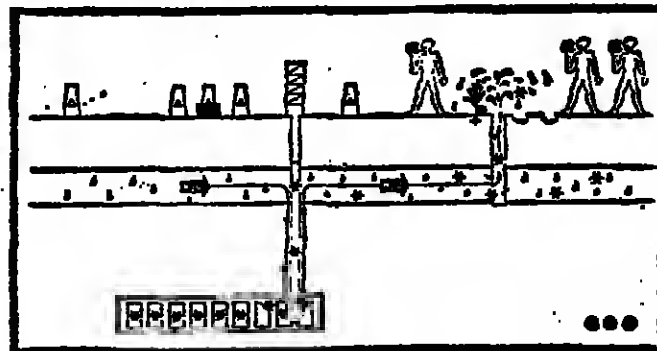
But the Department fear that present-day language will be incomprehensible in AD 12,000.

To overcome this, the Department is considering non-verbal warnings as well as creating a

"Stonehenge" ring of granite monoliths around the dumps. The oldest writing known today is on ancient Sumerian clay tablets dating back 3,000 years. But the cave drawings in Lascaux, France, go back 18,000 years and similar graphic images may be used as warnings.

One proposed cartoon sequence shows three stick-figure humans above a dump site. One drinks water from a spring and is sick and dies while the others flee from the area.

One problem has been defining what changes will occur on earth over the next 10,000 years and what kind of creatures will be around then to receive the warning.



If you've ever asked yourself these questions, now you can ask someone else.

You may not know it, but on your desk lies the answer to quite a few of the problems that crop up in a small business. It's called a phone. Just pick it up, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Enterprise and

you'll be in touch with someone who can give you unbiased information - yet asks nothing in return. The Small Firms Service was set up by the government to help enterprising people

become more successful. And we're here to help you find out anything from where to find skilled people, to who can supply a spare part for a machine. It costs nothing and we hope you'll find

our service very valuable. And in case you're wondering why anyone should be so keen to do this for you, we happen to believe that small businesses that grow are going to make a bigger and

bigger contribution to Britain's economy.

Small Firms Service
FREEPHONE ENTERPRISE
A SERVICE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

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the dimes to
Christmas

CONTRARY to popular belief, cheap foreign imports will not be the only factor that could force United States retailers to keep a lid on price increases during the Christmas holidays.

America's consumers, long considered a spendthrift, brand name bunch, have become what is known in the retail trade as "price sensitive," according to Sandra Shaker, a consumer economist at Chase Econometrics.

"There has been a profound shift in buying patterns over the past year," Mrs. Shaker believes. "Despite this very strong two-year long recovery, people remain much more sensitive to price than they normally do when economic times are good."

This autumn, America's clothing industry found out the hard way what consumer price sensitivity means to sales.

"The clothing market in the second half of 1985 and into early 1986 had a period of phenomenal growth in sales, double digit rates of sales growth after quarter," said Mrs. Shaker, who is considered a foremost authority on the subject.

"During that period of growth, there had been flat and even declining real prices for clothing. Then, all of a sudden, prices started creeping up and demand collapsed."

America's clothing retailers learned fast, however, and early signs indicate that during the Christmas season sales will be brisk as stores attract consumers with price discounting and promotional gimmicks.

The clothing industry will not be the only retail sector boosted by Christmas sales. Mrs. Shaker predicts that furniture and appliance sales will pick up modestly during the holiday season.

"Appliance and furniture sales, particularly the latter,

THE
AMERICAN
INTERVIEW

were terrible this summer," she says. "But interest rates are causing and home sales have picked up in the last month. It should be a good season, though sales will certainly not revive to the extraordinarily good pace of the first half of this year."

Detroit, too, should benefit during December. Mrs. Shaker believes car sales will pick up in September and October because of artificially depressed demand, strikes and consumer preference for luxury cars hampered by the industry's ability to produce enough to satisfy demand.

"Domestic car production has been stepped up and we should have more of the cars the consumer demands," Mrs. Shaker explains. "November and December car sales will definitely look better."

But computers and toys are expected to be the favorite. Educational toys could do particularly well.

All in all, Mrs. Shaker expects that this Christmas will be a good one for most all the United States retail sector. That would certainly be welcome news. America has had both feast and famine this year and concern over what the holiday season holds in store has prompted more nervousness than usual.

Last week the government report that retail sales dropped 0.1 p.c. gave rise to increased concern that the industry could be in for a rough ride during the Christmas season.

But Mrs. Shaker, joined other United States economists, who are convinced that the October decline in retail sales will be offset by an improvement in November and December.

She is quick to point out, however, that while the December boom may lift profits, the outlook for the start of the New Year and beyond is not encouraging.

"During the first half of the outlook is far much slower and probably erratic growth in consumer spending," Mrs. Shaker says. "The overall slowdown in the economy will take its toll on sales and the modest improvement we expect in December will probably prove short-lived."

Lauren Chambliss

Interest rates
in line for
further cuts

By ROLAND GRIBBEN

FURTHER POINTERS towards lower interest rates are expected this week after renewed falls in money market rates and figures showing Government borrowing levels in line with the revised £2.5 billion target.

The stock market is also anticipating a reduction and observers are predicting a new index peak will be tested, with the help of a successful British Telecom launch.

The 30 index closed 2.4 up at 920 on Friday, only 4.3 below the all-time high set on Tuesday.

Mr. Lawson, Chancellor, encouraged the hopes of another base rate cut in last week's autumn statement and helped set the scene for what is expected to be an over-subscribed Telecom issue.

Money market rates have eased further with the three-month interbank rate down from 9½ p.c. to 9 p.c. at the close on Friday. Treasury bill rates were also lower.

But the Bank of England is taking a more cautious approach and so far is refusing to provide the crucial signal by reducing its dealing rates.

The public sector borrowing requirement is increasingly reflecting the costs of the miners' strike but the latest increase has done nothing to dampen hopes of another half per cent fall in interest rates.

Borrowing was up by £448 million in October, taking the total to the current tax year to

£7.67 billion, well above the lower interest rates are expected this week after renewed falls in money market rates and figures showing Government borrowing levels in line with the revised £2.5 billion target.

Mr. Lawson is budgeting for a miners' strike bill of £1.5 billion. Last month's rise reflected increased borrowing from State corporations to cover the strike costs but Treasury officials say that the initial tranche of the Telecom flotation and the speed-up in value added tax payments on imports will provide a substantial income cushion for next month's borrowing.

Government revenues in the first seven months of the financial year were up by 10.5 p.c. to £51.9 billion while spending was 8 p.c. higher at £58.3 billion.

Sterling remains unaffected by the prospect of lower interest rates although the pound fell ground against the dollar on Friday to close at \$1.2585 with the effective index down 0.1 to 76.4.

Stockbroker W. Greenwood in his latest monthly bulletin today argues that the Chancellor is dangerously dependent on a volatile exchange rate in achieving the revenue forecasts outlined in last week's autumn statement.

"Even if his stated assumptions turn out to be correct, however, there is still the problem that a sequence of tax cuts will be underpinned by a finite programme of asset sales and a temporary peak in oil revenues," they add.

halted the massive cash outflows there, however, with drawings exceeding the £18.1 million of sales by only £1.9 million compared with a £38 million deficit in September.

Most of October's money came from the £110 million sales of income bonds which still pay 12½ p.c.

Although two very good months preceded October's £53.7 million sales, the previous two months had both seen outflows. And with the £199 million of rolled-over interest-free National Savings to meet its government-set target of £5 billion at the year to April.

So far, with seven months of the financial year gone, National Savings has achieved 25 billion of its target, putting it slightly ahead of schedule. Savings in all the different accounts totalled £28.7 billion at the start of this month.

dream of voting against us at an extraordinary general meeting."

House of Fraser has its next board meeting scheduled for Thursday and it is expected that chairman, Prof. Roland Smith, will demand the resignation of the two Lorch representatives.

"Of course, there is no question of our leaving the board," said Mr. Rowland.

In the meantime, the Office of Fair Trading is believed to be continuing its automatic investigations into the beneficial ownership of the 29.9 p.c. stake formerly owned by Lorch. Both the Al-Fayed and Prof. Smith have stated that the stake is beneficially owned by the Egyptians.

The Monopolies Commission is continuing its own inquiry into Lorch's relationship with House of Fraser, a probe which is unlikely to be dropped because of the share sale. Lorch still retains a holding in House of Fraser and has made it clear that it does not intend to sever its relationship with the company.

The situation would not arise.

"I am totally unconcerned by what has been said," he commented. "I am quite certain that the Al-Fayed would not

show are forecasting the shake-out in the industry is about to get more vicious. This is reckoned in part a function of IBM's market strength and its increasingly aggressive marketing.

According to latest estimates by research company Infocorp IBM has 28 p.c. of the United States micro market by numbers, and 35 p.c. by value, with Apple, which makes cheaper machines, having 43 p.c. by numbers, 34 p.c. by value.

The only other companies with detectable shares are (by numbers) Compaq, 6 p.c., Kaypro, 4 p.c., and Epson, 3 p.c. The giant AT & T has been recently the largest advertising spender but has cornered only about 1 p.c. of the market.

Experts warned that the host of companies prepared to slipstream IBM are likely to meet grief. As IBM reduces prices and introduces new models, the more precarious young companies will not be able to afford the marketing costs, much less the research and development needed to stay ahead, warned John Sculley, chief executive of Apple, in his opening speech.

But change in the industry seems for the moment to be

evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Things are getting better and cheaper and lighter and smaller and more efficient, but new ideas are scarce. Even this consolidation phase seems to be bringing out painfully sharp competition.

It is into this high pressure world that a number of United Kingdom companies have launched their products. There was a surprisingly large British contingent at the recent London Acorn and Applied Computer Techniques with their very different micro-computers.

Unhappily they seem to be arriving at a bad time. Computer sales in the United States have been on a downward trend since May. Infocorp president Richard Maltack said he could not explain the decline but "it could indicate market saturation."

Then there were exporters by proxy—Douglas Adams has transformed his hugely popular "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" into what he calls intelligent adventure games on computers being sold throughout America. But comes at this serious hour are rare.

The emphasis is on work and

seems for the moment to be

LOMBARD STREET

AFTER THE REFORM BIG BANG

By Christopher Fildes

LIGHT blue paper, and stand clear... That thought plainly inspires the choice of light-blue paper, for the Bank of England's charter of reform for government stocks. Fireworks, certainly. A big Bang is guaranteed. But what then? Golden Rain? Those who get too close may find that they have set off a Mine of Serpents.

Peering through the darkness at the sputtering fuse are two small groups of people. Some tough-bosy in the City for many years, are seldom seen or recognised outside their special habitat. Others are better known in New York, through behind their Transatlantic expressions, City faces are there, too.

The first, the Stock Exchange money brokers, have been distinguishedly likened to the birds which perch on crocodiles' teeth. They are six stockbroking firms who, alongside their ordinary business, lend to the stockjobbers, the dealers—leading them either stock or money.

A jobber who expects the market to rise will take stock on to his books, and finance it by borrowing money from these specialists, who in turn will borrow it from the banking system. If he expects the market to fall, he will go short, selling stock which he does not yet own. To meet his bargains, he will need to borrow the stock—again, from the broker, who in turn borrows it from one of the big institutional investors.

Come the explosion, though, and the jobbers will vanish. Instead, government stock will be traded by market-makers, who will have the jobbers' present privileges of treating and access to the Bank of England. Any honest and competent business may be a market-maker, if it is willing to obey the rules and run the risks.

Equally, any honest and competent business may be then by a Stock Exchange money-broker, lending to the market-makers—subject, in the rules and risks, and to one more condition. It will need to show that it has the support of the market-makers.

Come the explosion, too, and London will find itself with I.D.B.s—initials which have hitherto stood for illicit Diamond Buyers, or hushers of De Beers' cartel, but will now mean Inter-Dealer Brokers. The I.D.B.s will provide the electronic network which will allow the market-makers to deal with one

another, bypassing the Stock Exchange trading floor. Again, any honest and competent business may be an I.D.B., subject to the rules and risks—and, again, subject to the needs to show that the market-makers support it.

This is the clause that matters. It provides the makings of an outbreak of lobbying and rebuffing, pushing and pulling, buttering and blackballing, worthy of an even better club.

Take the money-brokers' club first. The six present members can fairly claim that in their part of the City, any number of things could have gone wrong, and nothing has. Borrowing and lending hundreds of millions of pounds worth of stock is an anxious business in itself. It could be a royal road to tax evasion on dividends (one reason why the road is strictly policed). It requires detailed knowledge of other people's most secret business—which institution holds which stock, which jobber has decided to sell short. It can only be done, and it is done, on a footing of absolute trust.

The I.D.B.s, too, when they get going, will have access to the market's secrets. They will see the whole pattern of dealing passing across their screens. A main purpose of their system is that one market-maker can sell through it, and another buy, without either knowing who the counter-part to the deal is. But the I.D.B. will see who both are.

In New York, five I.D.B.s now link the dealers in United States government stock. Three are subsidiaries of City firms, and the

other two have strong London connections. Mercantile House, Exco, Mills & Allen, the three biggest inter-banking broking groups quoted on London, each own an I.D.B. Two other London inter-bank brokers, Charles Fulton, and Tullett & Tokyo, have alliances with I.D.B.s, and Tullett has already declared that it wants to have an I.D.B. for the London market. These five must all be probable candidates.

Some of them are certainly wondering whether they want to be Stock Exchange money-brokers, as well. There is no exact equivalent in New York, but they come close to it. The present Stock Exchange money-brokers ask themselves, more hesitantly, whether they should try to be I.D.B.s. Those who now are neither would find the transition harder to make. To set up an I.D.B. network in London, from scratch, is now costed at £22.5 million. The money brokers believe that their knowledge of the market's wrinkles and the fund managers' foibles is something which no millions could buy.

Already, though, the prospect is of a gilt-edged market with more aspirants than business. Fifty odd firms now hope to be market-makers (though 37 suffice for the much bigger and faster growing market in New York). Simply wholesaling stock would not earn a living for half that number. They will have to take views on the market, going long or short, which means business; for the money-brokers, provided their systems are safe against their clients' probable misfortunes.

But the new rules will require

money-brokers to keep their capital separate from that of their parent firm, and they will need plenty, and now can only guess what it can earn. As for the I.D.B.s it is being said that on a line through New York-London could support three, or maybe four.

If the market-makers, then, will be cutting each others' throats, what will they do to each others' candidates? Money-brokers and I.D.B.s need their backing—they must, as the light blue paper puts it, satisfy the Bank that a broadly-based demand for their services exists among the gilt-edged market-makers.

The catch is that some of the candidates—two or three of the six present money-brokers, one or two of the five prospective I.D.B.s—will belong to groups which also own a market-maker. That spells a contested election.

The first blackball has already been cast—by Gordon Pepper, whose firm, W. Greenwell, means to be among the market-makers. Money-brokers, he said, would have sensitive information about market-makers' business, and there was common ownership. "Gilt-edged market-makers might be extremely wary about channelling business through the money-broker." That went for I.D.B.s, too, and Mr. Pepper hoped that the leaders in both fields would stay independent.

Others put these fears more frankly. In the fierce markets ahead (they say), with margins pared to nothing, the pressures within a big group might be stronger than the stoutest Chinese wall of secrecy could resist.

Rubbish, say the candidates. Their business has always depended on trust, and if they had not earned it, and did not continue to earn it, their doors would shut. In the new markets, their actions would be instantly visible, both to their customers and to the Bank. An I.D.B. foolish enough to play favourites would leave its trail across its screens, and could say goodbye to its £22.5 million investment. The money-brokers, too, would be out of business in a minute, if anyone thought theirs were the sort of Chinese walls which (as the Chancellor so nearly said) have chinks in them.

Fascinating times lie ahead. One thing is sure: the Bank of England has not attached its light blue paper to a damp squib.

Major reshuffle
at Guinness Peat

TOP LEVEL changes at Guinness Peat, the banking and insurance group, will be announced today amid denials about a fresh boardroom row and a split between executive and non-executive directors.

Albert Frost, non-executive chairman of Guinness Peat, the merchant bank, said that Richard Penhalls, chief executive, is leaving after decisions to rationalise operations and bring the offshoot more closely under the wing of the parent.

Lord Graham, Guinness Peat non-executive chairman, will take over as head of the bank with Alastair Morton, group chief executive moving in as executive deputy chairman and Bruce Ursell moving up to become managing director of the bank.

Non-executive directors at Guinness Peat are said to have opposed the integration move and attempted to prevent Mr Frost and Mr Penhalls being ousted but other sources say the parting has been amicable.

Textile industry
output drops

THE TEXTILE industry's recovery was arrested in the third quarter with production and deliveries down on the same period a year earlier.

Output of man-made fibres dropped 1 p.c. to 84,562 tonnes while deliveries were 11 p.c. lower at 81,332 tonnes.

The British Man-made Fibres Federation reports that in the first nine months total output at 252,485 tonnes was marginally above the figure for the same period last year.

It is into this high pressure world that a number of United Kingdom companies have launched their products. There was a surprisingly large British contingent at the recent London Acorn and Applied Computer Techniques with their very different micro-computers.

Unhappily they seem to be arriving at a bad time. Computer sales in the United States have been on a downward trend since May. Infocorp president Richard Maltack said he could not explain the decline but "it could indicate market saturation."

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It is into this high pressure world that a number of United Kingdom companies have launched their products. There was a surprisingly large British contingent at the recent London Acorn and Applied Computer Techniques with their very different micro-computers.

Unhappily they seem to be arriving at a bad time. Computer sales in the United States have been on a downward trend since May. Infocorp president Richard Maltack said he could not explain the decline but "it could indicate market saturation."

Then there were exporters by proxy—Douglas Adams has transformed his hugely popular "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" into what he calls intelligent adventure games on computers being sold throughout America. But comes at this serious hour are rare.

The emphasis is on work and

seems for the moment to be

Overseas growth
on the cards at
British Telecom

BRITISH TELECOM is actively examining plans to expand overseas through acquisitions or joint ventures after privatisation next month.

But Telecom denied yesterday that it was planning to take a 20 p.c. stake in Northern Telecom, the fast growing Canadian-based telecommunications group controlled by Bell Canada Enterprises.

A team headed by John King, Telecom's head of corporate business, has been carrying out research work into ways to extend international operations.

Sir George Jefferson, Telecom chairman, is anxious to see the company emerge as an international telecommunications group and believes that the reduction in the Government holding will increase the prospects of tie-ups and acceptance in foreign markets.

The decision to offer shares in the United States, Japan and Canada is an important element in the strategy now under review.

Penny & Giles
to join USM

PENNY & GILES International, the Muford, Christchurch-based designer and maker of advanced instrumentation is applying to join the unlisted securities Fiske through a placing. Quilter Goodson is broker to the placing.

Another continuation of programme trends is the arrival of "expert systems." These have been produced in recent years to help find oil and minerals, diagnose stomach ailments and so on.

Human Edge Software Corporation is now introducing an interesting set of programmes to be used as the basis of producing your own programmes or to be used for setting up existing software. It also has an intriguing set of psychological programmes, which help recruit, negotiate and manage.

Almost as a publicity gimmick the company produced a personality assessment programme called Mind Probe, and so convincing were its answers that it has sold 17,000 at \$19 and the programme is currently one of the three best sellers to the American market.

Retail sales to go higher

A FURTHER increase in shop sales this month is predicted by the Confederation of British Industry today in its latest retail trade survey based on replies from 584 companies.

Keonch, Edwards, GBF deputy director-general, said: "The rate of growth may have fallen slightly compared with earlier this year but sales are expected to continue growing even above the buoyant levels at the end of 1985."

The CBI estimates that the increase this month will be in line with the last month's improvement after making allowances for optimism among retailers.

The improvements highlighted by the CBI surveys have been running ahead of gains shown in the government's official retail sales figures during the summer months.

A total of 47 p.c. of companies expect sales this month to be higher than the same month a year ago while 22 p.c. are anticipating a downturn.

Retailers have been placing more orders with wholesalers in the run-up to Christmas

Channel freight
price war ends

THE FOUR-YEAR price war which has virtually eliminated cargo profits for Channel ferry companies appears to be ending with plans for two increases in rates next year.

Townsend Thoresen, P&O and Sealink all seem set to make rises of about 6 p.c. in the New Year followed by just under 5 p.c. in the summer.

A profit of nearly £12.5 million has just been disclosed by Sealink during its first three months under Sea Containers.

lep

1984 Interim Results
(six months to 30th September 1984 - unaudited)"Six months of continued
progress, especially in
the U.S.A."

DAVID RHEAB, CHAIRMAN.

	1984 £M	1983 £M
Group turnover	155.9	149.1
Trading profit		
Whitlock U.S.A.	3.6	2.7
Investment property	1.7	1.5
Vehicle distribution	1.5	1.4
Other operations	0.7	0.5
	7.5	6.1
Discontinued activities	(0.4)	—
Interest	(3.3)	(2.8)
Profit before tax	3.8	3.3
Net earnings per share	3.2p	2.7p
Dividend per share	1.8p	1.8p

Copies of the Interim Report are available from the Secretary

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Public sector faces the cost of tax cuts

TUCKED away in a footnote to one of the public spending tables in last week's autumn statement was a highly significant piece of information. Spending programmes for 1985-86, it said, "reflect an assumption that central government rates of pay and allowances will increase on average by 3 p.c. from due settlement dates."

In other words, departmental budgets have been set on the basis that the pay bill rises by no more than 3 p.c. next year, the same as assumed for this.

The small print belies the importance of the announcement. The fact is that the Government's ability to stick to its spending objectives, and hence the scope for the promised tax reductions in the future, depends critically on screwing down the public sector wage bill.

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



By Frances Williams

Plans for State spending to 1986-87 published in February show that not only is pay in the public sector projected to rise, more slowly than in the private sector—it is projected to rise by less than prices.

More than five million workers in central and local government—a quarter of all employees in Britain—are expected to accept cuts in their living standards at a time when the national income is predicted to be growing steadily.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has calculated that if, by contrast, public sector pay rose in line with growth in the economy the Chancellor would be in the unpleasant position of having to raise taxes rather than cutting them next year to keep borrowing on track. And the overall scope for tax reductions over the next four years would be only half the £15.5 billion suggested at Budget time.

Mr Lawson's tax cutting hopes rest in bonding back to taxpayers some of the buoyant revenues generated by economic recovery. He cannot allow them to be pre-empted by higher spending. But, as the IFS points out, a rise in the public sector pay bill implies that those the Government pays directly (and they include State pensioners as well as public sector workers) must be prevented from sharing in the benefits of greater prosperity.

Two questions immediately arise: is the realistic? and is it desirable?

No one in or outside government expects the 3 p.c. pay assumption to hold. Over the past four years settlements have topped the announced figure by an average of 1.5 p.c. Special cases like nurses and obligatory rises for the police, firemen and armed forces have forced up wage costs, and no group has settled for less. This has been one of the factors behind the persistent overshoot on public spending.

Civil servants and others can scarcely be expected to take 3 p.c. when private sector wage deals are running at more than 6 p.c. and average earnings on the Treasury's own assumptions are expected to rise by 7 p.c. over the coming year.

Nevertheless the Government's tough stand had a marked effect on the relative pay of workers in the public services.

Since 1980, which saw the last of the massive Clergy awards, earnings in central and local government have lagged behind the private sector by 1.5 to 2 p.c. a year, or by about 10 p.c. in all, according to figures compiled by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

As the institute commented in a special article in its February Economic Review, this falling behind is not unprecedented. "What would make a new development would be a considerable further period without a large comparability award to bring general government earnings back into line with those in the rest of the economy." That is precisely what the Government is banking on.

It would be perfectly possible for ministers to argue that civil servants and others are so grossly overpaid that a steady erosion of their relative position in the wage league is warranted and desirable. But they have not chosen to use this argument and have indeed abandoned for the moment any comparability exercise which might support such a claim.

What skimpy evidence there is suggests that pay rates in the public sector are not unduly high (for some jobs they may well be too low, as ministers acknowledged in the case of nurses), even when job security and index-linked pensions are taken into account.

The Government, instead argues that it cannot afford to pay more than 3 p.c. (or not much more) if it is to keep public spending on track. Higher pay deals have to be offset by manpower and other economies. But it is not obvious why public servants should in effect personally foot the bill for tax cuts. If society is becoming wealthier, shouldn't all groups have a share, even if the private sector tax reductions than otherwise for some?

The prospects for the future are uncomfortable. If the Government does succeed in holding public sector pay rises below those in the private sector—and this will become harder year by year as grievances build up—it will become increasingly difficult to recruit and keep good people, which even a slim-line government service needs.

But if public sector workers were one day to force through a catch-up on pay, the Government's spending plans, and the tax cuts that go with them, would have little hope of being realised.

Boesky the risk arbitrageur

"WE PAY a dime and buy a paper." Not everybody who pays his dime puts the information it contains to such profitable purpose as Ivan Boesky, the most talked about trader on Wall Street.

In the last eight years, Mr Boesky has perhaps helped to keep the newspaper owners in business with his penny purchases. But he has amassed a fortune in his private bank, the Ivan F. Boesky Corporation, and controls funds which are counted in billions of dollars.

Mr Boesky is a "risk arbitrageur." He is also an actor, a patron of the arts, a university professor and a meticulously polite person.

He is not infallible. He is not an insider trader. He considers "greenmail" (more later) to be unattractive and does not engage in it.

The concept of risk arbitrage, like most ideas that pile up personal fortunes, is simple in concept but demanding in execution.

It relies on playing the "spread," or price difference, that frequently appears in running takeover situations. Unless the market is expecting a higher offer, the value of shares subject to takeover generally lags behind the face value of the offer itself.

Sometimes, the gap looms large. When Imperial Group was mounting its bid for Howard Johnson, there was a worry on Wall Street that Imperial would not actually go through with the deal.

The Howard Johnson price consequently fell to about half the price that Imperial was offering. Those that gambled that the bid would go ahead—including Mr Boesky—bought Howard Johnson shares and doubled their money when the deal was completed.

Mr Boesky is the first to admit that not all transactions materialise favourably for us. We have to anticipate that not all will work out. There's nothing unusual or glaring about it. We just hope that more do work out than do not.

One that didn't work out recently was Premier Consolidated. Premier was on the wrong end of a takeover bid from Carless Capital and Leonard, and was fighting fiercely.

The market doubted that the bid would succeed, and dropped the Premier price well below the Carless offer. Boesky thought the chances of the offer succeeding were good enough to put £8 million into Premier shares.

In the event the offer failed, the Premier price fell, and "we" are now stockholders in Premier.

"Our miscalculation was how many stockholders would accept." Being a Premier stockholder does not especially concern Mr Boesky, because he is very "curious about the quality of the companies we get involved with because we may become investors."

Nevertheless, Mr Boesky's idea of being "an investor" is rather different from that of, say, the Prudential. He readily admitted during an exclusive interview with me in London last week, that he might now try to make things happen.

That is, however, a long way from "Greenmail"—"green" to a Wall Street "is not a mark of environmental concern, but the shorthand for money."



QUESTOR David Brewerton

"mail" is a straight lift from blackmail.

The way in which greenmail works is that an investor buys a stake, and implies that he wishes to gain control. He enters into a discourse with the company, and to get him off its back the company agrees to buy in the shares owned by the greenmailer at a premium to the market price.

Mr Boesky maintains that in his 18 years on Wall Street he has never engaged in it. "The process," he says, "is like blackmail. It is very ungentlemanly. It is not to the good of all shareholders, just the predatory ones. We find it very unattractive."

One of the reasons he does find it unattractive, no doubt, is that he has been the victim. He was once greenmailed by Saul Steinberg's Reliance Financial Services Corporation. Steinberg

got \$71.5 a share—the rest of the investors saw the price drop to under \$50.

Mr Boesky is anxious that his empire, which in Britain takes in Cambrion and General Securities investment trust, should be seen as a business, not some sort of swashbuckling venture that may be here today but gone tomorrow.

To that end, he has just completed a lecture tour explaining to business school audiences just what risk arbitrage is all about. He is, after all, a professor of both the New York and Columbia business schools. The time has come, he says, for him to perform "a socially desirable function—I train young arbitrageurs."

He also employs them. His private bank has a staff of 80 in New York, mostly highly skilled analysts able to pick out situations as they come across the Dow Jones tapes.

"We are outsiders looking in on merger situations, not insiders. We have an interest in insider trading, and if we are offered such information we tell them to go down the street and sell to somebody else," he says.

Information, if not of the inside variety, is nevertheless the key to the success of the venture. Mr Boesky absorbs it like a sponge, his advisers say, and despite some delegation in the organisation "I have total



Ivan Boesky: Caught out by Premier Consolidated.

knowledge of everything we do."

That knowledge is topped up each night, when lesser mortals are sleeping. Each evening, files are transported by the limousine-load from the back headquarters on Fifth Avenue to Mr Boesky's home. Since he has need of only 200 minutes' sleep each night, he has plenty of time to browse through them.

But if he should be "gone tomorrow," it will be for one of two reasons. Either his meagre intake of food—mythology has it that he eats no more than 600 calories a day—will cause him to fade away, or he will quit Wall Street for the theatre.

He already "plays" on the off-Broadway stage, has a keen interest in the promotion of classical theatre in New York and is a trustee of a number of "arty" ventures, including the American Ballet Theatre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

But he has a nagging desire to direct and produce, rather than merely act as a financial sponsor. "But maybe that'll have to be in the next life." Until then, and Mr Boesky is still only 47, we can expect to see more of his influence at work in London. "It's a very hospitable market and the people are pleasant."

Tom Kyte

Amersham casts a cloud over Telecom

WHICHEVER way the British Telecom offer goes, someone is bound to find fault—that is the only thing about the issue which is absolutely certain.

Already there are murmurings in the City that the price of 130p a share has been set too low. Visions of another Amersham with a bumper share price premium on the first day of dealings are being conjured up.

This is hardly realistic but there is some support for the view that the Government may have been able to squeeze just a little more out of the privatisation.

The yield of 7.1 p.c. is generous for a company implying real annual growth of 5 p.c. G.E.C., for instance, which is seeing about the same real growth rate is yielding less than 2.5 p.c.

Most of the United States telephone companies are yielding about 8.2 p.c. on earnings multiples a couple of points lower than Telecom's prospective 9.3 times, but these are not directly comparable, their growth being controlled in a

specific percentage of capital employed.

A T & T which does not operate under the same restriction is a better comparison and this is yielding 6.4 p.c. on a price-earnings ratio of 12.5. Telecom's price appears to have been designed to inspire a premium when dealings start on December 3, of between 10-15p. That is probably a safe bet for day one but if market conditions allow, the shares should be substantially higher by the end of the week.

MINING

By Colin Campbell

GFSA—a case of doing what comes naturally

ROBIN PLUMBRIDGE, 49, chairman of Gold Fields of South Africa, is from the school which believes gold mining is difficult enough without having to assume the risks of the futures and currency markets.

Perhaps it is his upbringing as the son of a banker which accounts for his straight forward attitude—he is a mining chief, not a currency dealer which helps set GFSA apart from a number of other mining companies in not taking gambles.

In view of the horror stories from various mining companies of late—Hartheestfontein announced in its 1984 annual report it had lost R20 million (£9.1 million) because exchange markets had turned against it, Lorraine and Western Areas have been caught on the wrong foot, platinum and even gold companies have admitted to exchange losses—GFSA's policy of not playing markets it knows little about will be appreciated by serious investors in gold mining shares.

As a man schooled in mining— at 36 he was the youngest vice-president of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, at 45 one of the youngest to become chairman of a major mining house—he claims some reason- able ability in assessing the longer term trends in the gold price.

"But I have limited ability to assess the short term, and because GFSA does not hedge we get no miners," he says.

Gold Fields of South Africa is one of the brighter stars in Consolidated Gold Fields' crown (holder of 48 p.c.). Group mines are long life, low cost, and the shares are an attractive entry point into the broad spectrum of the South African mining scene. Whatever the anxious moments experienced by other mining companies in South Africa have generally been enjoying record local currency prices for their metals.

Though gold is likely to remain the bedrock of GFSA for many years to come, it represented 85 p.c. of group assets and was responsible for 82 p.c. of group income in the year to



Robin Plumbidge, chairman of Gold Fields of South Africa.

June, the operational base is being broadened for the 1990s. Mr Plumbidge recently took GFSA very decidedly into coal by acquiring Clydesdale Collieries from the Liberty Life group which it will eventually merge with its own Apex coal interests, and acquired from Newmont large stakes in Tsumeb and Oskiep copper.

Mr Plumbidge agrees that copper is a swart word at the moment, but the investment gives the group technical access to smelting capacity. Through the Clydesdale deal GFSA will become an important exporter of coal and supplier to domestic power stations in the next decade.

A significant unquoted investment in its stable is the 51 p.c. share of Black Mountain Minerals Development—a substantial producer of a variety of metals, of which the most important are lead and silver. If ever Phelps Dodge was a willing seller of its share of Black Mountain, which operates at a profit but is struggling at the bottom line because of heavy interest, GFSA is likely to be a willing buyer.

The GFSA metals/minerals diversification is also clear in its platinum ambitions, about which the group was for so long reluctant to talk. But

then it takes a long time to establish whether a mining house has found a deposit worth exploiting, and even though the stage has now been reached where the prospect can be said to have potential, no decision has yet been taken on whether to go ahead.

Capital costs and the long-term view of the platinum market will finally be the deciding factors.

The chairman's mining philosophy is simple, and pragmatic. If a mine is in the right place, we'll look at it, though within the confines of the overall Gold group where a find in North America is likely to fall under the Newmont umbrella and a find in Australia would be the responsibility of Renaissance. His group are likely to remain focused on South Africa and Namibia.

Mr Plumbidge believes that there is still lots of potential for new mines in South Africa—"our geologists are huddling with ideas," says the man who led the project teams which brought the East Driefontein and Deelkraal gold mines to production—and the group is now committed to investing 10 p.c. of its pre-tax profits each year on exploration. Within the group's gold interests, Kloof and East Driefontein are both areas of promise.

Given his longer term view of affairs, it is not easy to pinpoint Robin Plumbidge to a definitive view of where gold is headed next. But in the wake of the United States presidential election it could take a few weeks yet before market forces begin to play their part, though he recognises that investment demand for gold is still at a low level.

The comfort for shareholders in GFSA, however, is that at least they can sleep knowing that the group is doing what it knows best—mining—and trying to outsmart international currency markets which have tripped up so many in the past. A roller-coaster ride in the metal markets is hammy enough without having to take on currency risks as well.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SHARE RACE

IT is going to take an extremely last-minute effort from the 1984 Daily Telegraph share race leaders to overtake Pentland Industries for this year's honours. Yet one share is making up an astonishing amount of ground.

There are just three weeks to go and Pentland has kicked again to extend its lead this week. It owes its success to its

fast-selling range of Reebok sports and training shoes. Pentland now owns the worldwide selling rights. "Executives even went them to the office in the States," said finance director Frank Farnat.

In this country Pentland has teamed up with Chris Brasher and John Disley, two giants of British athletics history, to sell the shoes in this country. Pen-

land is clearly well-suited to be leading our race.

But the following pack are still trying hard with Computer and Systems Engineering (CASE) grabbing second spot at this late stage from Donald Macpherson.

Watch out too for the tremendous late surge put up by Illingworth Morris, straight in at number four from overseas this week.

After a marathon hard-fought battle Alan Lewis took over as chairman with a controlling 55 p.c. of the hostile group. But lately after producing much better figures market gossip have been looking for a bid and sent the shares spiralling.

The pace has also taken its toll on some of our long-standing leaders. Said to see French Connection, which at one stage looked as though it might challenge for the lead, slip back and fall just outside our top ten. It has been in the leading group since June.

TOP TEN

	Percentage change to November 9	Number of entrants
Pentland Industries	346.4	1
CASE	219.2	7
D. Macpherson	210.1	6
Illingworth Morris	185.0	30
Booker McConnell	169.6	3
James Neill	167.5	8
Samuelson Group	158.1	1
Datastream	154.8	4
Hunter Group	153.9	7
Consolidated Modderfontein	153.6	

List compiled with the help of Datastream.

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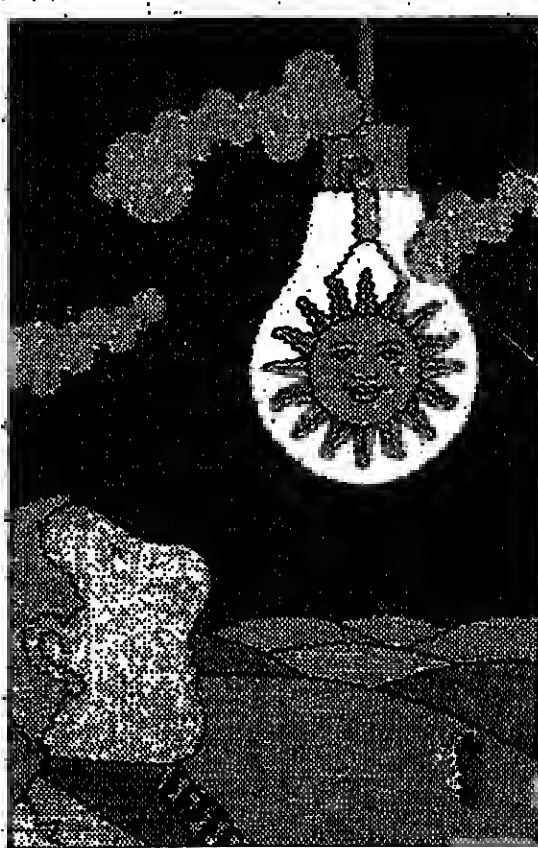
For example, our new T-Plan contract was one of the first off the stocks to help early leavers with frozen pensions to protect. Following this success, two major new contracts—Flexible Cover Plan and Flexible Mortgage Plan—both became market leaders from the day of their launch.

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COMPANIES

Berkeley Hay Hill

BERKELEY and Hay Hill is making a four-for-seven rights issue at 10p a share, raising £1.7m after expenses. The group also announces that conditional contracts have been exchanged for the acquisition of Fitzrovia Group Property Developers and Contractors.

Net tangible assets being acquired amount to £2.43m at end-March and the consideration is being satisfied by the issue of 24.35m Ordinary shares.

Comtech

COMBINED Technologies Corporation reports attributable losses of £479,000 against £220,000 for the year ended September. The company's share of losses of £2.26m (£1.64m) arising from its 65 p.c. owned subsidiary, Muenos, which is a 51.42m (£1.64m) was effectively offset by the gain arising from the Muenos rights issue.

Heritable-Hoskins

SCOTTISH Heritable Trust has made an increased and final offer for Hoskins and Hoskins, a building industry materials supplier, which was again swiftly rejected by the Hoskins board which is advising shareholders to "take no action". For each Hoskins Ordinary share there are three Ordinary shares in the Scottish trust. Hoskins at around 27.4m. There is also a full cash offer of 25.5p for each Hoskins share. Hoskins share slipped to 26p while Scottish eased to 27p.

Scottish also intends to increase its final dividend to 1.4p for a full year total of 2.5p (2.1p). The closing date for the increased offer will be two weeks following the posting of the documents.

Tonga-Huilets

SHARPLY higher interest charges of 8.44m (£1.5m), reflecting the higher level of borrowing, have been attributed to the Tonga-Huilets Group. The company's share of losses of £3.9m (£3.5m) arising from its 51.42m (£1.5m) was effectively offset by the gain arising from the Muenos rights issue.

IN BRIEF

Sheffield Brick Group: First half net profit £1,000 (loss £185,000). Interest charges £14,000 (£13,000). Profit attributable £58,000 (loss £239,000). No interim dividend.

Southern First half net profit £11,000 (£12,000). Sales £1.4m (£1.3m). Eps 0.53p (£0.52p). No interim dividend.

Flintcom: Full year pre-tax profit £1.1m (£1.3m). Profit £1.1m (£1.3m). Profit attributable £1.1m (£1.3m). Eps 0.53p (£0.52p). No interim dividend.

Global National Resources: Third quarter net income £55,000 (loss £52,000) making 10p (£1.4m) for nine months or 11p (£1.4m) a share.

Johnson Exploration: Third quarter net pre-tax income £57,000 (loss £12,000) making 10p (£1.4m) for nine months or 11p (£1.4m) a share.

Grain Storage: First half pre-tax profit £126,000 (£111,000).

DIVIDENDS DIARY

TODAY: Final—Australia & New Zealand Banking, Concentric, Hargreaves, Swindon Private Hospital.

Interims: Farshaw, Burton Wood, Brewin, J. & Sime.

TUESDAY: Final—Alford & Smithers, Bankers Investment, British Petroleum, General Investment, Court Trust, Northern American Trust, United Steel Corporation of South Africa.

Interims: A. T. Reuben, Chapman Industries, L. A. Group, F. Hargreaves, Marlborough Property Holdings, Mercury Securities, Metal Box, Resident International, Young & Co's.

WEDNESDAY: Final—Marine Adventure Sailing Trust, Scottish Investment Trust.

Interims: Associated Heat Services, Bulmer & Lumb, Enery.

MONEY AND EXCHANGES

THE POUND ABROAD

Currency	Rate
American dollar	1.54
Swiss franc	1.48
West German mark	2.36
Japanese yen	160.00
Italian lira	1,360.00
Spanish peseta	166.64
French franc	6.55
Belgian franc	33.33
Dutch guilder	3.60
Portuguese escudo	200.48
Irish pound	0.78
Scottish pound	0.70
Norwegian krone	4.76
Swedish krona	4.66
Denmark krone	6.46
Israeli sheqel	3.40
Indian rupee	8.25
Pakistani rupee	10.00
Sri Lankan rupee	15.00
Thai baht	5.50
Singapore dollar	1.36
Malaysian ringgit	2.36
Philippine peso	46.00
Indonesian rupiah	1,500.00
Chinese yuan	2.36
South African rand	1.54
Botswana pula	1.54
Lesotho loti	1.54
Namibia dollar	1.54
Swaziland lilangeni	1.54
Zimbabwe dollar	1.54

FORWARD RATES

Currency	1 month	3 months	6 months
American dollar	1.54	1.54	1.54
Swiss franc	1.48	1.48	1.48
West German mark	2.36	2.36	2.36
Japanese yen	160.00	160.00	160.00
Italian lira	1,360.00	1,360.00	1,360.00
Spanish peseta	166.64	166.64	166.64
French franc	6.55	6.55	6.55
Belgian franc	33.33	33.33	33.33
Dutch guilder	3.60	3.60	3.60
Portuguese escudo	200.48	200.48	200.48
Irish pound	0.78	0.78	0.78
Scottish pound	0.70	0.70	0.70
Norwegian krone	4.76	4.76	4.76
Swedish krona	4.66	4.66	4.66
Denmark krone	6.46	6.46	6.46
Israeli sheqel	3.40	3.40	3.40
Indian rupee	8.25	8.25	8.25
Pakistani rupee	10.00	10.00	10.00
Sri Lankan rupee	15.00	15.00	15.00
Thai baht	5.50	5.50	5.50
Singapore dollar	1.36	1.36	1.36
Malaysian ringgit	2.36	2.36	2.36
Philippine peso	46.00	46.00	46.00
Indonesian rupiah	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Chinese yuan	2.36	2.36	2.36
South African rand	1.54	1.54	1.54
Botswana pula	1.54	1.54	1.54
Lesotho loti	1.54	1.54	1.54
Namibia dollar	1.54	1.54	1.54
Swaziland lilangeni	1.54	1.54	1.54
Zimbabwe dollar	1.54	1.54	1.54

GOLD PRICE

Unit	Price
1000 grams	£350.00
100 grams	£35.00
10 grams	£3.50

CRUDE OIL

Unit	Price
1000 barrels	£15.00
100 barrels	£1.50
10 barrels	£0.15

PLATINUM NOBLES

Unit	Price
1000 grams	£150.00
100 grams	£15.00
10 grams	£1.50

NEW SOVEREIGNS

Unit	Price
1000 coins	£150.00
100 coins	£15.00
10 coins	£1.50

MONEY MARKET RATES

Rate	Period
1.54	1 month
1.54	3 months
1.54	6 months
1.54	1 year

DOLLAR RATES

Currency	Rate
American dollar	1.54
Swiss franc	1.48
West German mark	2.36
Japanese yen	160.00
Italian lira	1,360.00
Spanish peseta	166.64
French franc	6.55
Belgian franc	33.33
Dutch guilder	3.60
Portuguese escudo	200.48
Irish pound	0.78
Scottish pound	0.70
Norwegian krone	4.76
Swedish krona	4.66
Denmark krone	6.46
Israeli sheqel	3.40
Indian rupee	8.25
Pakistani rupee	10.00
Sri Lankan rupee	15.00
Thai baht	5.50
Singapore dollar	1.36
Malaysian ringgit	2.36
Philippine peso	46.00
Indonesian rupiah	1,500.00
Chinese yuan	2.36
South African rand	1.54
Botswana pula	1.54
Lesotho loti	1.54
Namibia dollar	1.54
Swaziland lilangeni	1.54
Zimbabwe dollar	1.54

EURO CURRENCIES

Currency	Rate
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Swiss franc	1.48
West German mark	2.36
Japanese yen	160.00
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Sport... ON 5 PAGES

MORGAN DENIES ENGLAND BAN ON CHILCOTT

By JOHN MASON

DEREK MORGAN, chairman of England's selectors, denied vehemently yesterday that Gareth Chilcott, the Bath loose-head prop who won his first cap on Nov. 10 against Australia, had been banned from further international selection. England's next match is against Rumania on Jan. 5.

Morgan insisted that no directive about Chilcott had been issued by RFU officials. "This is news to me," he said. "I can assure anyone that no one at the RFU tells me or the committee who we should or should not pick for England."

CELEBRATION VICTORY FOR BATH POWER

By A Special Correspondent

BATH celebrated fielding eight England internationals for the first time in their history in fine style with a comprehensive victory over Coventry to retain their unbeaten home record.

The spirited victors succeeded in holding their own for minutes but once John Horton, the Welsh centre, had scored the winning try, the game was over.

Coventry's pack with Steve Baxby, showing no sign of improvement, and Brian Kidney, the scrum-half, never gave up the battle but their stubborn defence was exposed to ever-increasing pressure and did not have the pace to cope.

Palmer finds target

Gloucester handling along the line sent David Tregear down the right wing for the first try, and Palmer's louchie conversion, between other less happy kicks, provided the platform for a downhill cruise in the second half.

Richard Hill, straggling off recent indifferent form, surged through from a scrum, and Palmer, having converted again, was involved in two more hair-raising moves.

On the other hand, Bath's new recruit, Alun Davies, who has been a long time to make his mark, was involved in a line-out scrum, and Palmer's louchie conversion, between other less happy kicks, provided the platform for a downhill cruise in the second half.

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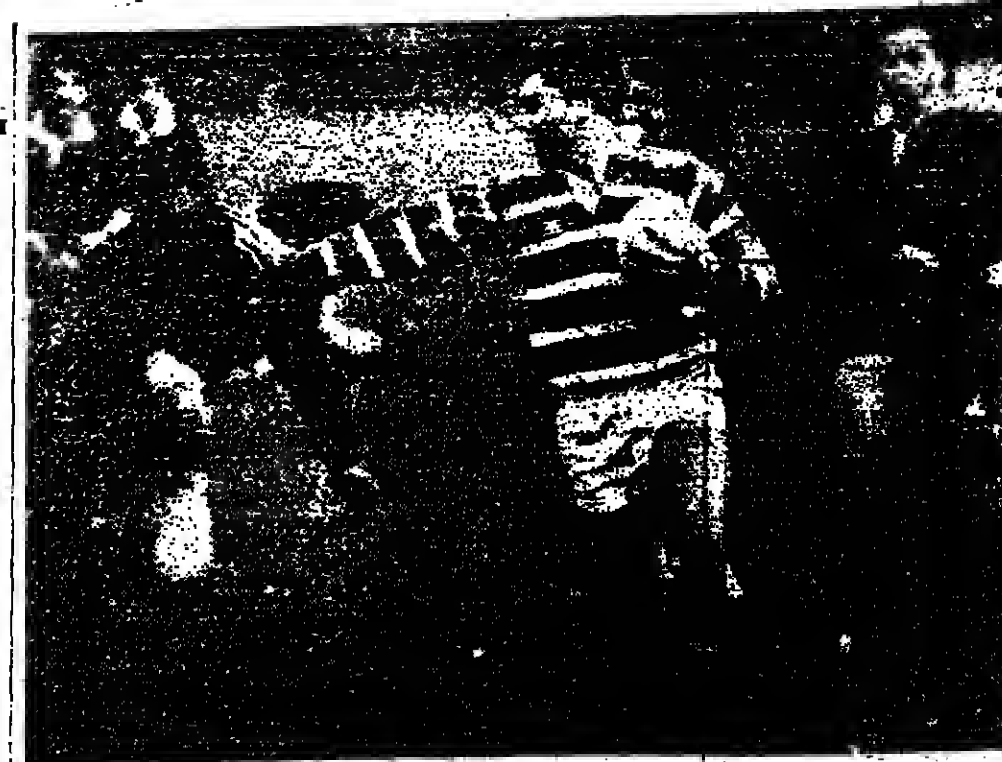
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Underwood, Leicester's right wing, hands off Stringer. Wasps full-back

LEICESTER SHOW COURAGE

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

WASPS ... 16pts, Leicester ... 16

MAURICE COLCLOUGH, a loose-out colossus, won so much prize possession for Wasps that Leicester paid him the back-handed compliment of reshaping their tactics to reduce his influence on an enthralling game at Sudbury on Saturday.

Unluckily, because a banned player, the line-out became a game of attrition, and Leicester, trailing 10-3 at half-time, ran the ball from every where to salvage a draw, which was something for almost everyone.

Leicester achieved an honourable result, namely that they had made the best of their depleted resources. Wasps, though, were charged and missing kicks, reflected on half-back efficiency, back-row efficiency, and on Colclough's commands.

Mike Mason, who had no previous contact, Mr Morris said yesterday.

Other England players, past, present and possibly future, had a strong bearing on the score, balancing with a try, a dropped goal and three penalty goals each in the chill evening.

Wasps, behind for only eight minutes in the match, led three times and prospered on the familiar skills of Davies, Melville and Colclough, and on the emerging reliability of Harris, the flankers, and Smith, the right wing.

Davies scored a high-speed try after a scrum, and Colclough, who had been a strong contender for the three missed place kicks in the game's formative stages, one of which was a dropped goal, was a valuable attacking force. Davies also dropped a goal, Stringer leading Wasps, other.

Leicester, without Hare, Dodge and Cusworth, showed considerable character and, indeed, strength, through the unassuming play of Peter Moss, a youth team product, Aven, a former Nuneaton centre, and Neil, a scrum-half, who was on Leicester City's books.

Woodward showed glimpses of his finest form, as well as dropping a scrum, Underwood's pace and his kicking, and Colclough, who had been a strong contender for the three missed place kicks in the game's formative stages, one of which was a dropped goal, was a valuable attacking force. Davies also dropped a goal, Stringer leading Wasps, other.

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